



Thug barred from estate after terrorising neighbours

BAN SLAPPED ON NOTORIOUS YOB

Report by Richard Guttridge

A YOB who terrorised an estate, launching attacks on his neighbours, has been banned from the area for two years.

Neighbour from hell George McCreight threatened another resident and was accused of widespread intimidation. He proved to be such a nightmare for tenants that Dudley Council took the step of serving him with an injunction, ordering him to leave.

Action was taken following reports about his behaviour on the Highfields estate in Halesowen.

The 21-year-old, of Bredon Court, Halesowen, who was convicted of threatening a neighbour and has previously been found guilty of theft and also of possession of cannabis, battery and racially aggravated harassment, is now banned from the estate.

Housing

He is not allowed within the boundaries of Stourbridge Road, Alexandra Road, Hagley Road, Bromsgrove Road and Whitehall Road.

Housing boss Councillor Laura Taylor said concern for other residents on the estate had forced the authority to act.

She said: "Serving an injunction against a problem individual is not an action taken lightly by the authority but we felt we needed to show not only that we were listening to residents but that we will take action against individuals who feel the need to blight an ever-improving community."

"McCreight caused significant issues affecting a number of households with fear of widespread intimidation, harassment and violence."

"This injunction will not only safeguard residents in the locality but will provide further confidence and reassurance to all of our residents."

Anyone who sees McCreight breaking the conditions of this injunction is asked call the police on 101.

PUPILS RAISE CASH FOR CANCER CARE CHARITY



Kris Griffin with Ormiston Forge Academy Year 9 students Georgia and Olivia and Nicole Carroll from Leukaemia Care

STUDENTS in Cradley Heath swapped their uniforms for 'something red' on the last day of term and raised a huge amount of money for a blood cancer charity.

The day was inspired by the charity work Ormiston Forge Academy member of staff, Kris Griffin, had been undertaking while trying to raise £10,000 over 12 months for Leukaemia Care. Mr Griffin, a trustee of the charity, was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) 10 years ago.

In recent weeks, he has spoken at assemblies and been interviewed by the student council, and on the last day of term greeted students at the academy in Wrights Lane with a collecting bucket.

It resulted in a grand total of £780 being raised, donated to the #Kris10 appeal.

Mr Griffin said: "Ten years ago when I was diagnosed I wasn't sure if I was going to live to 33 and now 10 years later, I'm still here aged 43, and pretty good at maths too! To celebrate 10 years since the diagnosis, I've set myself a challenge to raise £10,000 for Leukaemia Care. The money will be spent training more GPs on the signs and symptoms of blood cancer. The money that Forge students have raised will save lives. I'm very proud of everyone involved."

Mr Griffin is now planning a 10-mile walk and a special concert at the Cavern Club in Liverpool to help smash his fundraising target by February.

ASSAULT

'Acid' was thrown in woman's face

A WOMAN suffered serious facial injuries after an 'acid' attack in Birmingham.

The 47-year-old victim was in Northbrook Street, Ladywood, when an offender on a passing moped or bicycle threw a corrosive substance at her at about 10am on Tuesday.

A specialist ambulance crew were called to an address in Smethwick to treat the victim, who had suffered chemical burns to her face. The woman was given pain relief and transferred from the address in Astbury Avenue to hospital.

Police are appealing to anyone with information to contact officers on 101.

CRIME

Machete attack after street row

TWO men were left with serious injuries after a machete attack in Brierley Hill.

The pair were walking along High Street when an argument broke out between them and two people in a car.

Police confirmed the men were attacked with machetes in Hill Street and suffered serious injuries during the incident at around 10pm on July 22.

Police are urging anyone with information to call them on 101.

GOVERNMENT

Council is told to consider tax rise

COUNCIL tax could be raised again in Dudley, following April's 4.5 per cent increase, so the authority can boost funds.

Bosses at Dudley Council have been warned by auditors that they should consider increasing how much they charge the borough's council taxpayers. This is due to concern over protecting frontline services.

The borough has had one of the lowest council tax rates in the West Midlands in recent years.

INSIDE

GLIMPSE INTO CASTLE'S PAST



PAGE 4

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CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
LIFESTYLE	12
THE TICKET	17
BRAIN GYM	23
LOCAL SPECIALISTS	25-26
MOTORING	29-30
SPORT	31-32
CONTACT US	

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Sandra to fulfil her son's dying wish



Stuart and Sandra

A MOTHER left heartbroken by the death of her 32-year-old son is to carry out one of his dying wishes by taking part in a half-marathon in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

Stuart Barnbrook died in October, just five weeks after being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour.

Before he died, his mother Sandra, aged 51, spoke to him about what she could do for him. He replied: 'Mum, do the half-marathon, that's enough.'

Mrs Barnbrook, a supermarket worker, said: "I said I'd run to the ends

of the world for him. So I'm now doing the Great Birmingham Run."

The race takes place on October 14, but for Mrs Barnbrook, from Brierley Hill, training started in the snow earlier this year.

She said: "I realised I had started to do nothing other than sit around the house. I needed to do something that was going to make me feel better."

"When I am running I feel completely free, there is nothing else in the world. "That time away from everything and being outdoors has helped me focus on

what happened and it has helped me start to deal with my grief."

Mrs Barnbrook started her training by running regular 5km races. She recently completed her first 10km race.

She will be raising money for the Stourbridge hospice and will be watched by her husband Andy.

Mrs Barnbrook said: "Stuart put up an amazing and brave battle, and was taken from us far too young."

The run takes place on October 14 for more details see www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-run-website.

Conman's bid to get jail sentence cut is rejected

A CRUEL fraudster who tried to con money out of a vulnerable pensioner has failed in a bid to get his jail term cut. Terry Francis Collins was locked up for a year at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 22.

The 22-year-old admitted fraud after donning a hard hat and carrying a clipboard to bamboozle his elderly victim, London's Appeal Court heard.

Collins had turned up at the 82-year-old man's Halesowen home on November 8 last year. He asked the pensioner about work which had been done on his roof, for which he had paid in full. The conman claimed the victim owed tax for the work. He demanded £480 in VAT for a job that had cost just £650.

When the pensioner queried the amount, Collins said he would 'settle for £280' but the victim refused to pay up, though the elderly man, who has had triple bypass heart surgery, lived in fear after Collins said he would be back.

People had tried to trick him before and his daughter had seen a camera installed. Police were able to recognise Collins from the CCTV.

Lawyers for Collins, from Foster Way, High Green, Sheffield, argued that his jail term was far too harsh but Lord Justice Treacy, who was sitting with two others, dismissed the fraudster's appeal.

COUNCILLORS have expressed concerns over access to a proposed residential development on the site of a former Royal British Legion club in Halesowen.

Ling Homes Ltd has submitted proposals to Dudley Council to build 11 homes on the site in Bundle Hill, Halesowen.

The land had been occupied by the former local HQ of the Royal British Legion from 1968 until 2008 before it was demolished after a major fire.

Belle Vale ward councillors Jake Cooper, Simon Phipps and Laura Taylor – the latter is also cabinet member for housing – say they do not believe enough consideration has been given to how existing residential areas will be accessed once the homes have been built.

The three councillors in a joint statement, said: "We are aware of the application to build 11 dwellings on the previous site of the Royal British Legion club on Bundle Hill.

School

"We are concerned about these plans as currently there are many reported issues regarding access to the existing residential areas plus the school at the top of the hill.

"We are in discussions with the planning officers regarding this, as at present we cannot see that enough consideration has been given to access. Whilst we support the need for more housing in the area, and encourage development of sites similar to this, there must not be a negative impact on the surrounding area.

"We must also ensure any future residents of the planned houses are not going to experience issues in their area from the outset, making for a very uncomfortable living situation."

A design and access statement, submitted with the plans, says: "The proposed development would see the redevelopment of the site after lying unkept for nearly a decade, providing high quality homes."

Queen Alexandra's charity boost



Alexandra Darby with Ormiston Forge Academy sixth formers Holly Cox and Drew Priest, both aged 17

IT was all smiles for a Black Country charity after receiving a donation of nearly £1,000 from Miss Black Country.

Rowley Regis singer Alexandra Darby, who holds the title this year, has been busy fundraising for good causes all across the region as part of her Miss England journey.

She is competing in her first Miss England final next week at Resorts World in Birmingham after being crowned Miss Black Country back in March, and has received lots of

support from the local community. The beauty queen, a former pupil at Cradley Heath's Ormiston Forge Academy, has most recently raised £859 for Wednesday charity Smile for Joel, which helps families of victims of overseas terrorism attacks.

Achieve

The 22-year-old said: "Through the year I have raised money for local charities, the main one being Smile for Joel. As a previous student of Ormiston Forge Academy I

wanted to go back and do a fund-raising event to show the students what you can achieve when leaving education.

"I decided to do a school talent show and each student gave me a pound when entering with all proceeds going to Smile for Joel.

"It was such a lovely day, being able to see the students' talent and watch them having fun on stage. We raised £859 in total, which was truly amazing and I would like to thank all involved."

Passengers warned of Euston closure

PASSENGERS from the West Midlands planning to travel to London using Euston Station are warned the terminal will be closed to over three consecutive weekends this summer.

Euston will be shut as part of Network Rail's Upgrade Plan, which includes replacing ageing North Wembley junction, a major intersection on Europe's busiest mixed-use railway.

Rail chiefs say it is necessary to shut the line in order to carry out the work. They will be done over August 18-19, August 25-27 (bank holiday weekend) and September 1-2.

The Euston shutdown will impact all services on the West Coast main line including trains serving Birmingham New Street, Birmingham International, Rugby and Coventry.

Date is set for town hall vegan festival

THE Stourbridge Vegan Festival will open on August 11 between 10am to 4pm at Stourbridge Town Hall, in the Crown Centre. Entry costs £2 with children under five free. For further information, visit facebook.com/Stourbridge-Vegan-festival-358772547967607/.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Town will swing to sounds of jazz

A JAZZ day is being held in Halesowen town centre on Saturday.

It forms part of the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival and is being run in association with Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID).

There will be a stage in Somers Square and among those performing will be French group Les Zauti Stompers de Paris at 10.30am, Enrico Tomasso and the Europa Jazz Band at 1pm and Ricky Cool and the In Crowd at 3.30pm.

Cannon Jazz Dance will be performing in the courtyard of St John the Baptist Church at 10am.

Frontline police figures plummet

The number of frontline police officers in the West Midlands has plummeted over the last year, Home Office figures show.

West Midlands Police had 5,630 officers available for frontline duties in March – down 566 from 2017.

Staffordshire Police also had fewer bobbies on the beat, 1,440 this year compared with 1,482 in March 2017.

The number of police officers across England and Wales has dropped to its lowest level since 1996 and comes as crime across the region has risen by 13 per cent.

Fifth of workers have second job

A new study has found that 21 per cent of workers in the West Midlands currently have a second job, earning them around an extra £3,500 a year.

More than a third (38 per cent) would like one in the future, according to Informi, who provide expert advice and guidance for small and medium-sized businesses.

Its survey also found that 57 per cent in the region believe most people will have multiple jobs in the future. Those who already have a 'side hustle' make an average of approximately £288 a month from it.

Harassment led to man's arrest at airport

A man from Slovenia who harassed a woman from Stourbridge for two years was jailed for a week and made subject of a restraining order.

Drago Kisilak was given the restraining order until 2020 along with the short custodial centre at Cannock Magistrates Court last week.

The 56-year-old pleaded guilty to a charge of harassment without violence after flying to Birmingham Airport and being arrested by waiting officers.

Authority needs higher profile, says housing boss

NOBODY knows what the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is, according to one of its chiefs.

Councillor Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council and the WMCA's portfolio holder for housing and land delivery, has led his first meeting of the board.

Among the items on the agenda were social housing and the potential of former shops to help ease housing pressures.

However, toward the end of the meeting, Councillor Bird said that people need to know what the WMCA is before they can really start working towards their goal of 215,000 new homes by 2031.

"If we get a site where the combined authority have assisted, we need to have a sign that says 'in conjunction with the combined authority'. Because who knows who the combined authority are, apart from the people sitting around here? Nobody. Nobody.

"We've done this with other economical developments, and we need to make sure that we're promoting our cause."

The authority was formed in 2016 and is made up of seven West Midlands councils, including all of those in the Black Country.

It has powers in a range of areas including transport, economic development and regeneration. The body was formed to help the region compete with areas such as London.

Organ recital in aid of clock fund

A FREE concert will be held at a Cradley church to celebrate the restoration of its organ.

Musician Sue Hill, from Coventry, will play the Compton organ at St Peter's Church in the free admission concert at 2.30pm. It will make the third in a series of concerts at the parish church.

The performance will be accompanied by video projections onto a big screen and a collection will be held in aid of the Cradley Heritage Clock Project. The clock dial originates from the demolished Church of St Luke in Cradley Heath and money is being raised to restore and install it at St Peter's to keep the memory of St Luke's alive.

See www.stpeterscradley.org/clock-just-a-minute website.

Family history fun

A family fun day is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre. Visitors to the centre in Tipton Road on Wednesday (August 1) from 10.30am to 3.30pm will be able to find out how to research family history.

Mayor is backing Halesowen's bloom bid

THE Mayor of Dudley will show his support for Halesowen's bid to win a coveted Royal Horticultural Society award when national judges visits the town next month.

A team of more than 100 volunteers, is busy putting the finishing touches to the Halesowen in Bloom entry for the national finals of the Britain in Bloom awards 2018.

Having scooped their third gold medal in last year's regional heats, Halesowen in Bloom was put forward to represent the whole of the Heart of England in the award's national urban community category.

They face stiff competition from Bankside in London and the Stanwix area of Carlisle but the mayor,

Councillor Alan Taylor, is confident Halesowen has what it takes to take the title.

He said: "The team behind Halesowen in Bloom is working so hard to create wonderful floral and art displays to represent the town, borough and wider region on a national scale.

"They are a shining example of what it means to be community spirited and are deserving nominees of the coveted national prize.

"I look forward to meeting the Royal Horticultural Society judges next month and wish the team the very best of luck."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, environment boss, said: "Once again our environmental services team is happy to support this event in partnership

with the volunteers. The town is looking exceptional, which is a credit to all involved, made more challenging than usual by the current heatwave."

Eve O'Connor, chair of Halesowen in Bloom, added: "We've got a great team of volunteers who have given up so much of their free time to bring our entry to life. Our displays are a credit to them and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far. We'll all be keeping our green fingers crossed for a successful result."

There are two themes for this year's entry, celebrating the town's button-making heritage and the centenary of the end of the First World War One.

As part of the display, the town's war memorial has been covered in 1,000 knitted poppies.

Kasia was failed by mental health system

A YOUNG woman from Halesowen who took her own life weeks before turning 21 was failed by the mental health system, an inquest heard.

Katarzyna Wolonciewicz, also known as Kasia, was found dead from asphyxia on March 29 this year.

Kasia suffered from depression and anxiety and had been seen by staff at Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

An investigation was launched after Kasia's mother accused the trust of failing her daughter. Kasia had called Dudley Talking Therapy Services (DTTS) multiple times after being referred by a GP but never received a call back.

On Monday at Black Country Coroners Court, assistant coroner Emma Whitting said: "Kasia took her own life but this was contributed to by system failures in the mental health service that let Kasia down in her time of need. This has now been recognised by the trust."

Unacceptable

Giving evidence, joint medical director at the trust, Dr Mark Weaver, admitted it was 'completely unacceptable' that Kasia never received a call back from DTTS.

Following the inquest Kasia's mother, Jayne McCracken, said her daughter did not receive the help and support she needed.

"Kasia was failed by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust," added Mrs McCracken. "I hope the trust learns lessons from Kasia's death and implements changes."

A spokesperson for the trust said: "The death of Katarzyna Wolonciewicz was a very tragic event and we would like to repeat our sincerest condolences to her family.

"We have completed a thorough investigation and as a result we will be making improvements to the way we respond to patient referrals and reviewing the effectiveness of our Mental Health Assessment Service. We are also addressing the way in which we respond to self-referrals to our Talking Therapies Service. We support and care for many people in crisis and we take learning from all incidents seriously."

Two face questions over bench theft



Do you recognise these men? Police want to speak to them about a stolen memorial bench

POLICE in Dudley have released a CCTV image of two men they want to speak to after a memorial bench was stolen in the Black Country.

Officers want to speak to the two men in connection with the theft from outside Chainmakers

Fish & Chip shop in Colley Gate, Cradley Heath.

One of the men who was spotted on CCTV was wearing a Northface jacket with the hood up.

The bench, in memory of popular community member Robbie Williams who died at the age of 46,

was removed at around 12.30am on Friday, June 15.

Anyone with information is asked to call police in Dudley on 101; quoting crime reference number 20DY/133469P/18. People can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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4 Plucky ducks racing on canal again

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 26, 2018

THE Black Country Duck Race is back for a second year, raising money for Mary Stevens Hospice.

The Tenth Lock Pub will host the race on the canal on Sunday, August 5, starting at noon.

Rubber ducks will compete for the ultimate prize of £100, after racing down the canal to the finish line, helped along whatever the weather by the local fire service and their hose.

The pub will also be running a free family fun day with special guests, Ian Hamilton and Baggie Bird, complete with the animal man, ice cream, a BBQ, live music, children's characters and an outdoor real ale and gin bar.

Ducks are available to buy for £3 per duck and can be bought at the Tenth Lock Pub, Canalside Tackle or online via www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/duck-race-2018 and the event is being sponsored in full by Canalside Tackle.

Amanda Bowen, deputy head of fundraising at the hospice: "It's events like this that make such a difference to our patients and it will be a spectacular community event which makes it even more special. We're so grateful to The Tenth Lock and Canalside Tackle for making it possible, and we can't wait to see people lining the banks of the canal cheering their ducks home to victory!"

Chere Griffin, Tenth Lock manager, said: "Last year we had great fun and raised loads of money for the brilliant work of the hospice and the families they support."

Zombies at castle

DUDLEY Castle will be transformed into an open-air cinema for a screening of George A. Romero's black and white zombie shocker Night of the Living Dead on Friday, August 3 at 9pm. The following evening's screening of The Lost Boys has sold out.

Fewer without work but more people now claiming benefits

Heatwave gives a glimpse into the past



Scorching sunshine has produced markings that history experts say indicate where buildings once stood at Dudley Castle

MYSTERIOUS markings have appeared in Dudley Castle's courtyard and the phenomenon is down to the dry spell.

Scorching sunshine has brought out the markings, which history experts say indicate where buildings stood as far back as the 16th century.

Prominent 'parch marks' have been revealed in three areas of the castle grounds, showing the location of wall from the 1500s, an elaborate garden water feature from the early-1900s

and a unknown building near the base of the keep.

Former castle keeper Adrian Durkin said: "I haven't seen the wall line across the far end of the courtyard for about 30 years.

"The wall would have enabled food and provisions to be brought to the kitchen without having to go through the main courtyard and is probably John Dudley (mid-1500s) in date.

"The large circular feature in the

centre will be remembered by some as a garden feature but for the rest it is, of course, where the UFOs land! But it's the third marking near the base of the keep, which is a real mystery. I've never seen it before, we have not excavated the area and I don't know what it is."

Education Assistant Amy Hickman said: "It's all down to this exceptionally hot weather, which is causing history to re-emerge. These markings are like footprints from the past."

UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen in the West Midlands with the number in work in the region at a record high of 2.78 million.

Employment in the UK increased by 137,000 in the quarter to May to 32.4 million, the highest figure since records began in 1971, giving a record rate of 75.7 per cent. Vacancies increased by 7,000 to 824,000.

In the West Midlands the number in work is up 137,000 on the year. Karen Townley, customer services manager with Jobcentre Plus in Walsall, said jobs were continuing to become available across the Black Country.

Primark at Intu Merry Hill is looking to fill 150 full and part-time vacancies by November, TK Maxx is recruiting 40 in Walsall, Poundland has 20 warehouse jobs available at its headquarters in Willenhall and 250 local apprenticeships are available in Wolverhampton.

Statistics

Nationally unemployment fell by 12,000 to 1.41 million, giving a jobless rate of 4.2 per cent, the joint lowest for more than 30 years, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The West Midlands figure was down 2,000 to 141,000 - 4.8 per cent of the working population. Over the course of last year it has fallen by 25,000.

Average earnings increased by 2.5 per cent in the year to May, compared with 2.4 per cent the previous month.

The claimant count, which includes people on Jobseeker's Allowance and the unemployment element of Universal Credit, increased by 7,800 last month to 898,700, around 97,000 more than a year ago.

For the West Midlands the number of claimants rose by 390 to 100,340. Wolverhampton had a rise of 140 to 7,955 (4.9 per cent of the working population) and Dudley was up by 110 to 7,345 (3.8 per cent).

Sabbath and Rolling Stones in exhibition

BLACK Sabbath, the Rolling Stones, Nina Simone and more are the subjects of a photo exhibition in Birmingham.

The exhibition, that takes place at Havill and Travis Gallery in Harborne, features a number of images from the 1960s shot by Jim Simpson, former manager of city metal icons Black Sabbath.

As part of Birmingham Jazz Festival, the exhibition at the Lonsdale Road art gallery explores rock and blues music in the Midlands.

Subjects include Mick Jagger at ATV Studios in Aston, Little Richard and Chuck Berry at Birmingham Hippodrome, Jerry Lee Lewis in the mayor's parlour in West Bromwich, Howlin' Wolf at Birmingham Town Hall, and more.

The exhibition runs until Tuesday. Prints will be available for purchase.



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Violent crime rate soars across the Black Country

VIOLENT crime across the Black Country has almost doubled in five years, while weapons possession has also rocketed, a study of new crime figures has revealed.

The statistics from the Office of National Statistics show a trend across Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Weapons possession, vehicle offences and sex attacks have all increased. But the number of drug offences has fallen. Shoplifting, bike thefts and criminal damage and arson vary.

Huge haul of illicit tobacco seized in raids

MORE than 150,000 illegal cigarettes and 1,000kg of tobacco were taken off Dudley's streets in 13 enforcement operations in one year.

The seizures took place at seven shops between April 2017 and March this year. Two prosecutions have since concluded with several more pending. The enforcement was part of a larger Trading Standards initiative by the Central England Trading Standards Authorities, recovering huge amounts of tobacco that would have resulted in a tax dodge of nearly £2 million.

The amount of illegal product seized has increased year on year, with the quantity of illicit cigarettes seized last year being almost 30 per cent more than a record figure the previous year.

Crooks use sophisticated methods to hide the illegal goods, which means specialist tobacco sniffer dogs are required.

In Dudley, violent crime involving injury has almost doubled in the five years.

Police recorded 2,549 such incidents in the borough over the year up to March this year. This is up 20 per cent from the year before and a 99 per cent from five years ago.

Rocketed

Violence without injury also rocketed, from 670 to 1,712 in five years.

Worryingly, like Wolverhampton, the number of weapons possession offences almost doubled over the five years. Drug offences, however, have slumped.

Overall, crime increased in the borough 50 per cent over the five years, to 21,411 recorded incidents over the latest period.

In Sandwell, it was much the same story again. Violent crime with injury doubled over five years from 1,838 to 3,378, as did violent crime without injury, rising from 769 to 2,260.

In Wolverhampton, the number of people caught with guns, knives and other weapons has rocketed by 91 per cent in the five-year period, by 20 per cent in the last 12 months alone.

In Walsall, incidents of violence with injury went up to 2,558 – a rise of 70 per cent over five years

Car-jack baby back with her mother



Clare O'Neill and her baby daughter Eliza in hospital Photo: West Midlands Police

A BABY girl was back in her mother's arms after the family's car was stolen in Birmingham with the four-week-old still inside.

Clare O'Neill was recovering in hospital with her baby Eliza safely back at her side after their shocking ordeal last week. Clare suffered face and leg injuries during the attack.

Police were mounting a major manhunt to trace two men behind the terrifying car-jacking in Acocks Green.

Clare arrived home last Thursday afternoon only to be confronted by two thugs who demanded the keys to her car. As she frantically tried to get her daughter out of the Audi, the thieves drove off with Eliza still in her car seat.

A major police search was launched as thousands of people shared news of the search on social media in a frantic bid to find baby Eliza. Thankfully she was found by an ambulance crew at a health centre in Small Heath after she had been left there in her car seat.

West Midlands Police released an image of Clare and Eliza recovering in hospital. Clare is shown to have suffered cuts and grazes to her face. She also sustained leg injuries in the car-jacking that took place at around 4pm. The car is a grey Audi A3 S line with the registration BJ66 YLV.

Detective Inspector Jim Munro said: "This incident has shocked the whole of our force area and we will leave no stone unturned in our search for the offenders."

Survey to help children get services

THE views of children with special educational needs or disabilities, their families and carers are being sought in a consultation.

The survey comes from the multi-agency SEND improvement board, made up of representatives from the health service, education, social care, voluntary sector and parents and carers.

People are being asked to comment on the vision and strategy for providing support to children, young people and their families.

Professionals, agencies and other stakeholders who support families with SEND needs are also invited to take part.

The three main areas that the board is looking to improve on are working with families, partners and stakeholders to ensure that the support received is tailored to their child's needs; working together to be more efficient when commissioning support across all agencies; and integrating support so that children and young people get the best mix of specialist and mainstream support right for them.

To complete the survey, visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/dudleysend. The consultation is open until September 21. For more information, people should visit the website www.dudley.gov.uk/sendconsultation.

Brum on shortlist for Channel 4's new home

BIRMINGHAM has made the final shortlist as a potential site for Channel 4's new national headquarters.

The city has made it to the last stage of the bid to find a new home for the broadcaster, and is facing competition from Manchester and Leeds.

Coventry, which was initially part of the bid as a creative hub, failed to be selected.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



New-style lessons that may not add up

THE bold new future of British education. New government guidelines mean that from 2020, infant-school pupils will be taught about responsible use of social media, transgender issues, and the importance of getting exercise.

The only problem is, when it comes to those boring, old-fashioned fuddy-duddy subjects, you know, reading, writing and arithmetic, our schools lag way behind those of countries such as Singapore and China. Maybe somewhere, in the very crowded curriculum, is there any chance of fitting a bit of this stuff in?

FASHION brand Burberry has admitted to burning £28 million worth of excess stock every year, to stop it being sold to the "wrong people". Very public spirited. And talk of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

ACROSS the West Midlands crime is on the rise. Big jumps in violence, sex offences and robberies. Nearly 3,000 offences involving knife crime in the past 12 months alone. Think about that for one minute – on average, in the West Midlands, there is a crime involving a blade every three hours.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson says more resources are needed. Of course he does. And perhaps people would be willing to pay a little more in tax if they believed it meant more thieves, robbers and hoodlums being put away.

But here's another statistic. Last year West Midlands Police dispatched blue-light emergency response vehicles to 94 reports of so-called hate crimes. Just 24 of these reports led to an arrest. In 20 of these call-outs, the alleged victim didn't want the police there.

Now, I'm sure many of those cases were genuine emergencies, where people were in real danger. In those cases it is right and proper that the police act swiftly and that the assailants face the full force of the law.

However, the fact that nearly a quarter of alleged victims didn't understand why the Old Bill were called in the first place suggests that sometimes there might have been an over-reaction.

Contrast this to the case of the baby abducted in the car-jacking last week, when police took 15 minutes to respond. The problem is that too often the authorities appear more concerned with people's attitudes and motives than what they have actually done. Wolf-whistling seems to be taken more seriously than burglary.

What will Sir Cliff do with his cash? A summer holiday?



Sir Cliff's wrangle with the Beeb... another addition to TV licence costing?



Trump and Putin – but Donald's paltry £3.1bn is petty cash compared to Vlad's



Corbyn's poetic platitudes on hatred, but what about antisemitism? Sorry Jezza? Speak up...

President's billions Trumped by Putin

I AM grateful to the reader who suggests a simple way to break the deadlock over Brexit. Penalties

UP pops a nasty little email from TV Licensing headed: "You've just days left to renew your TV licence." This is the first alert, not the final warning, so why the threatening tone? Why do they make it sound like we've done something wrong? If they think "just days" is cutting it a bit fine, then why not give us more warning? TV Licensing has always struck me as a bunch of bullies and they don't try to make any friends. The sooner the whole iniquitous and outdated TV licence is scrapped, the better.

AND how many of us will be forking out the licence fee purely to pay the BBC's damages to Cliff Richard?

YOU may recall I wrote some time ago about our local council erecting, at great expense, an anti-caravan gate at the local park so immense and so strong that it would probably stop a Challenger tank. A couple of days ago ten caravans quietly set up camp in the park. The travellers had totally ignored the shiny, formidable front gate and slipped in through the rickety old back gate. Who'd have thought it?

MEANWHILE, despite all those dire warnings that the stern new MoT test would take thousands of old bangers off the road, my ancient diesel has sailed through. I am now thinking of changing cars. It's a choice between poisoning 50,000 people a year (diesel) or ratcheting up

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



global warming (petrol). There is only one way to decide. Penalties.

I WROTE recently about the prospect of a second referendum on Scottish independence. The land border between England and Scotland is just over 100 miles long while the problematical border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, which you'd think would be shorter, is three times as long. Even so, 100 miles is quite enough to cause problems and I can't recall hearing Scotland's plan for dealing with them. How on earth could they stop all those starving, envious, raggedy-trousered, post-Brexit Sassenachs from streaming northward to the sunlit uplands of Free Caledonia?

FINGER trouble. "Sunlit uplands" almost appeared as "unlit suplands." Come to think of it . . .

WHY did Putin look so superior and the "miss-speaking" Trump seem so cowed and confused at Helsinki? Leaving aside the rumour that the Kremlin has blackmail-grade material on the US president, consider the money. Money defines Donald Trump. He lives and breathes the stuff. The reason he treats European politicians with contempt may be that he knows he is

richer than all of them combined. And then suddenly he is confronted by Vladimir Putin who is not only smarter, harder, fitter and infinitely more experienced in global politics but richer than him. Nobody knows how wealthy Putin is but by some estimates he is the richest man in the world. The Russian president could buy and sell Trump, and clearly unnerves him. Their meeting was like an eager but baffled old dog trying to make friends with a young, bored and extremely dangerous cheetah.

A READER admits he's puzzled by the seasons in Poldark (BBC1). One moment they're picking apples, the next it's summer flowers. He says: "Time does seem to be going backwards. When do the dead characters come back to life?" It is strange how film makers muck about with the seasons. In that fine 2007 movie Atonement, British soldiers are seen making their way towards the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation while walking through fields of stubble and picking apples from the trees. In May?

MY car hunt goes on. In the past I have found that the car that's right for you will speak to you. A few days ago in a showroom a gleaming white Audi convertible spoke to me very seductively but unfortunately Mrs Rhodes overheard it.

"WHEN we divide ourselves by xenophobia . . . when we divide ourselves by hatred, at the end of the day we all lose," declares Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party which, 70 years after the Holocaust, still cannot agree on a definition of antisemitism.

TALKING POINT



Crime: All we really want is to feel safe

A YOUNG man I know was recently attacked by youths who were drinking outside a town centre pub, he having seemingly done nothing other than attract their attention by wearing his shop uniform.

The victim and a colleague were repeatedly punched and his car damaged. He got away and went to Cannock police station while they returned to their drinking. Any hopes he had of police swooping on the thugs were dashed when told there was no-one available to deal with him and could he return on Monday – this was Thursday evening.

He did return and make a statement but heard nothing. Is it too much of a leap to think these yobs will now be feeling a little invincible having gotten away with this brazen attack and do it again?

Sadly this is not an unusual anecdote in Staffordshire or the West Midlands. Newspapers and social media are filled with similar tales such as businessmen watching helpless as burglars ransack their premises, closed police stations and reported crimes not being investigated.

Many crimes, it seems, go unreported. Anti-social behaviour, vandalism, even assaults aren't reported because "the police won't be interested", we hear people say. The latest crime figures are depressing. Possession of weapons offences rose from 1,207 to 1,857 over the last five years in the West Midlands, from 313 to 679 in Staffordshire. Public order offences up from 5,368 to 11,579 in the West Midlands and from 1,813 to 4,381 in Staffordshire, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Half of investigations into recorded crime in this country are closed without a suspect being identified - HALF!

There will be mitigation of data being collected differently, certain crimes more commonly reported now and some 'success' stories. But we don't need these statistics. We are too aware of increasing violence, anti-social behaviour, friends being robbed or burgled. These figures just confirm our worst fears and we are afraid. I'm cautious about where I park my car, whether my house is secure, about walking alone, about thieves or fraudsters targeting my elderly relatives.

But mostly I worry every time my children leave the house as I'm sure does every single parent as we witness increasing violence in the region robbing mothers of their loved ones. I'm tired of being told 'there is not enough money'. Keeping people safe, keeping police stations open and bobbies on the beat, surely these are priorities for any government.

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Brexit bullying tactics not democracy

ALONGSIDE many Germans, French, Irish and many other nationalities, I have just returned from my annual pilgrimage to the Somme battlefields and the ceremonies in remembrance of millions whose lives were sacrificed on the altar of militant nationalism in 1916.

This morning I received the emailed public communication of July 12 purporting to be from Theresa May. I have never seen such a dogmatic, vague, wishful-thinking, misleading and negative statement from any Government.

I still find it difficult to believe that the working people of Britain could

have been persuaded to vote to leave the EU which, for all its faults, is based on peace, stability, collaboration and protecting the rights and conditions of employment, food safety, pollution control, international arrest warrants and justice. Did any of us vote to abolish these values?

Nigel Farage said: "If we lose this referendum, we will fight for another!" Now that the boot is on the other foot it's a different story.

The extreme Brexiteers are accusing anyone who still questions our withdrawal as thwarting the so-called

'will of the people'. The referendum reflected the confusion of the British people, not the will. Only half the population voted and that half were almost evenly divided - 48 per cent to 52 per cent. Only one quarter of the country voted to leave. That's not democracy!

What's done cannot be undone but what's not done can be avoided if only the people and Parliament have the courage to do it. The country is being run by headless chickens and a few ego-centric bullies.

ROBERT PERRY
Stourbridge

Not such a special relationship

FOR once I fully support a Conservative Prime Minister.

The last time we danced to America's tune we went to war with Iraq, creating turmoil in the Middle East that spawned terrorism and mass migration into Europe.

I say to those who believe that we should give into Trump's trade war threats that the 'special relationship' is a joke and has been so for years.

To those who think we owe America for 'saving us' during the war that is completely untrue. By the time the Americans joined in, the RAF had mastered the skies. Most historians agree that if Japan had not attacked Pearl Harbour, it is highly likely that America would not have entered the war at all.

Stick to your guns Mrs May! The Brexiteers say we have the entire world to trade with, so we don't need America pushing us around.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipsos at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipsos, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Add Red Hall to list

THE article on the front page, Speed Limit To Protect Pupils, states that new 20mph zones will be put in place at 11 schools in the borough. I applaud this action. However, I am concerned that Red Hall Primary in Gornal hasn't been included in the list of schools. This is a split site school which sees staff and pupils moving back and forth across a busy main road throughout the day.

I myself have stood waiting to cross on the Zebra crossing, sometimes with pupils, and watched cars, lorries and vans speed by without stopping to let us cross. The introduction of a 20mph limit would greatly increase the safety of pupils, parents and staff. The article further states: "The 20 mph would only operate during school drop-off and pick-up times." I would suggest it needs to operate throughout the school day, in the case of Red Hall in particular.

MRS KAREN CARTWRIGHT
Dudley

Water tips just will not wash

I LOVE the Chronicle's resident opinion columns and the letters page.

However, I was riled when the Talking Point columnist rattled on extolling the virtues of water saving tips and belittling the use of jet washers - when the gardening columnist advised us to give our gardens a good soak!

Jet washers use far less water than standard garden hoses and can be safely used to water plants. Maybe the person using the jet washer had a long break between watering sessions?

People pay for their water so it is the responsibility of the supplier to maintain sufficient reserves.

Our friends at Seven Trent, etc, should concentrate on preventing burst pipes that damage property and waste millions of litres of water before flooding the public with water saving tips.

JOHN GILBERT
Halesowen

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8 We will proudly fly flag for the Black Country says Gwynne

A LEADING Labour frontbencher has hailed the Black Country flag – and pledged to fly it with pride from a Government building should Jeremy Corbyn’s party get into power.

Shadow communities and local government secretary Andrew Gwynne praised the Black Country as ‘one of the country’s most historic and best-loved regions’, and said his party would hoist the famous flag above the Communities Department building in central London to mark Black Country Day every July 14.

The striking black, white and red flag has divided opinion in Labour circles.

It is much-loved among local MPs including Ian Austin, Pat McFadden and Tom Watson, while Labour leader Mr Corbyn delivered a speech against a backdrop of the flag in Dudley in April.

However, the flag was criticised last year by Wolverhampton South West MP Eleanor Smith for the use of chains in its imagery.

Mr Gwynne said: “It’s right that buildings both public and private across the Black Country will be flying the Black Country flag six years on from its inauguration.

“And I can promise you that when Labour is in power every July 14, the Communities Department building in London will fly the flag with pride.”

The MP for Denton and Reddish in Greater Manchester went on to commend the ‘inspirational’ chainmakers parade through Cradley Heath, which took place last week in tribute to women who stood up for their right to earn a living wage and ‘went on to inspire a generation of female politicians’.

“They taught us of the importance of putting hard working people at the heart of the Labour movement,” he said.

“Labour has never forgotten these values and we will continue to be the champions of local people and local communities, just like those in the Black Country.”



Part of the Birmingham cityscape on view at the centre



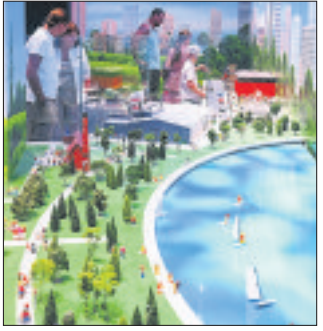
Part of the entrance at the discovery centre



The team get ready for the opening at Legoland Discovery Centre



Visitors enjoy Legoland Discovery Centre in Birmingham



Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham



Youngsters getting involved making their own creations in Lego

Legoland puts it all together

THE eagerly-awaited Legoland Discovery Centre in Birmingham has opened its doors.

The brand new £7million Merlin attraction, based at Arena Birmingham, features a Miniland, 4D cinema, creative work-

shop, Lego Duplo Farm, Lego City Builder, Merlin’s Apprentice Ride, Kingdom Quest Laser Ride, Lego Racers: Build and Test, shop and cafe.

Miniland is built from more than 1.5 million Lego bricks and is an interactive city where visitors can ‘see airships swoop and towers glow as

the little land changes from day to night’.

“Our mischievous Minifigures love hiding in Miniland – who will you spot?” says the attraction’s website.

Those enjoying the 4D Cinema, meanwhile, can experience rain, wind and even snow all under one roof. There is also a Build and Test area which has thousands of bricks

waiting to be made into shapes and vehicles, which can then be tried out on the speed test track and the Lego City Builder lets visitors make their very own Miniland.

Describing the Merlin’s Apprentice Ride, meanwhile, the Discovery Centre site says: ‘Enter Merlin’s magical potion room and discover a Lego wizard’s world of spells and sorcery.’

‘Round and round you go, pedal as fast as you can to help Merlin conjure his magic – can you reach the skies and become Merlin’s top wizarding apprentice?’

Specially designed for kids aged three to 10, the 58,900 sq ft indoor Legoland Discovery Centre is based at Arena Birmingham, opposite The National Sea Life Centre.

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10 Snooker ace is chief guest at Barmy Ball

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 26, 2018

A GROUP of cyclists are hosting a black-tie evening featuring snooker legend Willie Thorne to raise money for Midlands Air Ambulance.

The Barmy Ball, will include a live band, DJ, auction and raffle. The event takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, on November 24.

Following the success of their first ball last year, where more than £14,000 was raised for the charity, the Barmy Team have organised the event with the aim of beating last year's total.

Martin Whelan, Barmy Ball organiser, said: "Last year, the evening was such a success it made sense to come back this year with a bigger and better event.

"Already tickets are selling fast, which is why we've launched the event now, and I can't wait to see how the night goes as we raise funds for such a worthy cause."

Adam Williams, corporate development executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, added: "It's fantastic that this brilliant event is taking place for a second time, after it was such a success last year."

Willie Thorne, host for the evening, added: "I'm so pleased to be hosting the Barmy Ball this year, it's going to be so much fun for a very worthwhile cause." For tickets call 07837 755686.

£2k lotto cash pays for new greenhouse

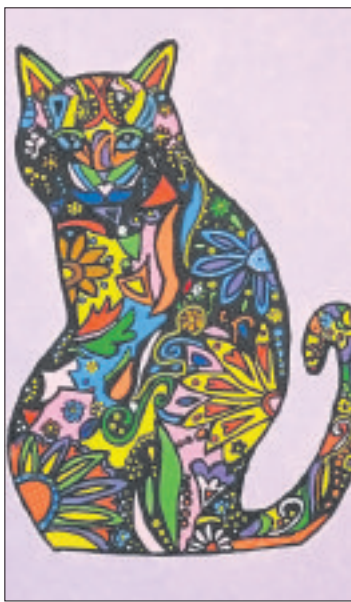
BOSSSES at a sheltered housing complex in Dudley have secured lottery funding to buy a new greenhouse for green-fingered residents.

Officers at Dudley Council helped staff at the site, which is run by Nehemiah UCHA, submit a successful bid for £2,340 funding.

Residents at Henry Court in Charlton Street will now be growing their own pumpkins, sweetcorn, peppers, runner beans, onions and strawberries.



Bratch Lock by Mel Eddowes will be on show



'Ozzy', Elaine Skidmore will be on display



Jacky Herrington's Red Poppies artwork



The Locks, Wordsley by Bronwyn Phillips

Victory artists' work in frame

WORK by members of a Wolverhampton art group will be in the frame at an exhibition next month.

The annual display, by the Victory Painting Group, takes place over the August bank holiday.

Since last year, the 32 members of the art group have produced more than 200 new paintings, which cover

a variety of mediums and will be on sale during the exhibition, on August 25 and 26.

The exhibition takes place at Victory Hall, Greyhound Lane, Lower Penn, next to the Greyhound pub, from 11am to 4pm each day. There is disabled access and free parking.

Raffle prizes have been donated by Lea Nixon and Stephen Coates, watercolourists, and by oil painter Colin

Joyce – some of the professional artists who have given painting demonstrations at the club during the last year.

Refreshments

Artists will be happy to meet visitors and popular greetings cards, all printed from all printed from original paintings by Victory Painting Group, will be on sale. Admission is free and

refreshments will be served. Victory Painting Group meets each week at Victory Hall, with artists visiting every month to demonstrate techniques.

Throughout the year there are a variety of painting demonstrations from visiting professional artists. Workshops are staged as well as visits to art festivals and visits to art festivals. Paintings are often

displayed in Gravel Hill Doctors Surgery in Wombourne, at Farmers and Friends cafe at Shipley Garden Village, in Bridgnorth Road and at the Spring Hill pub and restaurant, Warstones Road Penn.

This year the group has also exhibited at The Dudley Canal Trust and at The Guildhall in Much Wenlock.

Visit www.victorypaintinggroup.co.uk for more details.



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Golfers and racers chip in for charities



Tom Pain from the pro shop, volunteer Dave Moore, Ange and John Gaskell and Dave Pain, club director, with players

GOLFERS from the Black Country chipped in to raise more than £14,000 for a cancer foundation.

Ange and John Gaskell hosted their 10th event for the Rainbow Cancer Care Foundation at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club.

The golf day saw 160 players battle it out for individual men and women honours and spot prizes.

Mr Gaskell, who runs Revs Suspension Services in Halesowen and is a former British and European sidcar trials champion, said: "It was a great

day of fun and laughter and enjoyment, whilst raising a huge amount of money for several supported charities, which included Midlands Air Ambulance, Macmillan Nurses and Kidderminster Prostate Cancer Care.

"The first total lodged is in excess of £14,000, with two more events to run this calendar year.

"A big thank you to Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club and all our sponsors and players for helping us to raise this amazing amount.

"We'd like to thank our sponsors - Streetbike in Halesowen, Thermotech Ltd, Motorline Toyota in Stourbridge, Rygor Mercedes in Worcester, Motor-

cycle Mart in Kidderminster, Double Two Racing, MFB, Moto Mark Racing in Wollaston and Classic Restoration."

Pete Wright, from Tividale, who races in the No Limits endurance series under the Double Two Racing banner with Martyn Siviter, from Blackheath, had his race-winning bikes on display during the event.

Mr Wright said: "The team bought along both race bikes, sponsored two holes and auctioned off prizes such as a hospitality day out at one of our races and an amazing chance to see the British Superbike premier finale showdown event at Brands Hatch.

"All in all it was a great day."

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Potent health benefits of superfood mushrooms

CULTURES around the world have been harnessing the healing powers of the humble mushroom for thousands of years, writes Liz Connor.

They've long been a staple of traditional Chinese medicine, while the pharaohs of Egypt prized mushrooms so highly they decreed only royalty could eat them.

Nobody knows how many types of fleshy fungi exist in nature – there are about 10,000 described species, but mycologists suspect that this is only a fraction of what's out there.

Whether sprinkled on pizza or diced into a bolognese, these fungal organisms are a pretty common part of our western diet, but while you might be au fait with the likes of Portabello, Shiitaki and Chanterelle, there are plenty of medicinal varieties that you perhaps haven't yet heard of.

Here, we've picked out four superfood mushrooms being hailed as quiet achievers in the health and supplement industry, that any health buff worth their kale smoothie should really know about.

1. Lion's Mane

This hairy mushroom gets its peculiar name from its appearance, which bears a resemblance to (yep, you guessed it) a lion's bushy mane. This bearded shroom grows on broad-leaf trees in temperate areas of North America, Europe, and Asia, although it is rare to find in the wild.

So what magical properties does it possess? "Studies have shown that Lion's Mane mushrooms can help to improve cognitive function and ease symptoms of anxiety and depression," says Emily Hedgman, a spokesperson from Link Nutrition (linknutrition.com). In addition to helping enhance brain function, Hedgman explains that Lion's Mane can also help to support the heart and circulatory system, improve digestive health and reduce inflammation.

2. Chaga

The Chaga mushroom has been slowly gaining popularity in the west for its broad range of life-boosting benefits. It's been used for hundreds of years in Siberia and Asia, where they cut or grind dried Chaga and steep it in hot water, releasing its bioactive compounds into a mild tea. These hardy mushrooms mainly grow on the outside of birch trees in colder climates and have a lumpy exterior that makes them look similar to a piece of charcoal.

"Chaga mushrooms are most impressive for their high antioxidant content whilst also being high in fibre and naturally occurring beta-glucans," says Hedgman. "According to a study published in the World Journal of Gastroenterology, Chaga extract may also be able to prevent liver cancer cell growth – although more research needs to be done."

3. Reishi

This flat fan-shaped mushroom, also known as 'King of the Mushrooms', has been utilised for more than two thousand years in Asia, where its effects were so powerful, it was thought by some to grant immortality.

"Reishi, which is considered to be an adaptogen, is strongly anti-inflammatory and has uses tied to longevity, better immune function, and mental clarity," says Hedgman. Adaptogens, if you haven't already heard, help us to deal with the negative effects of stress, such as depleted energy levels and various types of hormonal imbalances.

4. Cordyceps

"Cordyceps is an anti-ageing, energy-boosting mushroom found in the Himalayas, that many experts claim can boost aerobic capacity and improve stamina," says Hedgman. These impressive mushrooms are known for their natural ability to fight free radicals, infections, and inflammation.

"Cordyceps have also been used for centuries to reduce symptoms of respiratory disorders, coughs, colds, liver damage and more," she adds.

If you don't fancy popping them in supplement form, Cordyceps have a mild flavour and can be stirred into a variety of dishes including soups, stir-fries and casseroles.

Get creative in the kitchen – both your body and your mind will thank you.



Children should be encouraged to look beyond the surface of things



Boredom is often a time when inspiration comes and children start to work things out for themselves

Why it could be good for your child to be bored

By Lisa Salmon

THERE aren't many parents who haven't heard their child utter the immortal phrase "I'm bored".

But instead of desperately scrambling to entertain them, parents should welcome their child's boredom, suggests Lauren Child, the author and illustrator who created the much-loved Charlie and Lola books.

Child believes daydreaming or just staring into space can foster creativity, which is vital for children's development.

"Don't be afraid to allow your child to be bored," she stresses.

"Boredom is often a time when inspiration comes and when children start to work things out for themselves."

Child, the Waterstones Children's Laureate who also gave young readers the Clarice Bean and Ruby Redfort books, has launched a campaign, called Staring Into Space.

Through this, she is urging parents and teachers to foster creative thinking in children by helping them spend some time simply looking, listening, staring into space and making things.

Creative thinking, she says, helps children to problem solve, and understand who they are and how they relate to others and the world.

"It is now widely recognised that creativity is as important as literacy or numeracy, and that allowing ourselves the time, space and freedom to be creative is essential for good mental health. Sometimes we need to stare into space."

Here are her top five suggestions for inspiring creativity.

1. Stop... and think about nothing

Try, with your child, to take 15 minutes every day to put things down - work, laptop, toys - and just think about nothing and allow your mind to clear.

"For me, this is when I get most of my ideas and when thoughts are allowed to collide," explains Child.

Parents should sometimes let kids just stare into space, she says, simply allowing their minds to drift and daydream. "Daydreaming is connected to creativity and allows ideas space to emerge and play."

2. Phones down for everyone!

"We need to try and put our phones down as parents so children can see we're doing this and leaving our phones for a while. The benefit of this is again to have time to clear our minds but also to communicate with people face-to-face."

"Often, we miss kind and everyday interactions with people because we're so busy looking at our devices."

Child suggests everyone in the family



If your child suggests doing something creative, react to them immediately

tries not to have phones or devices with them at mealtimes so texts or e-mails, however urgent they may seem, aren't interrupting conversations. Instead, the time can be used to share ideas and thoughts.

"How can we persuade ourselves that it's worth the effort to look away? That when we turn our attention wholly away from the device, we will be rewarded?" asks Child.

"I am trying to train myself to put my phone away and out of mind until it's really needed: no idle texting, no calls, no checking Instagram or e-mails, and the camera only to be used when I see something I feel I truly want to keep. In truth, it's hard. But I am convinced it's worth it."

3. Don't delay creativity

If your child suggests doing something creative, try and react to them immediately. Part of you wants to say 'not now' and 'please don't make a mess', but try to see this as time for bonding and communication.

Child says that if her daughter, Tuesday, wants to do some cooking or make something, "I always try to go along with this if we've got the ingredients and the things we need,

even if we've only got 10 minutes.

"I think this can make a big difference. As a child, your enthusiasm wanes if someone says, we can do that later or next weekend."

4. Look carefully

Child suggests walking outside, looking at things and discussing them with your child.

"It sounds really obvious, but often we're trying to get somewhere and don't take the time."

"My daughter and I often discuss things we see dropped on the street or we take pictures of buildings and then zoom in on the patterns and go home and try and sketch them."

5. Try making sculptures from toast

Child has worked with arts and crafts teacher Josey Scullard and BookTrust to outline six creative resources, linked to children's books, for children to try. One of these is making toast sculptures, inspired by A World of Your Own by Laura Carlin which encourages readers to look beyond the surface of things and see them in a different way.



Children's Laureate Lauren Child

"So here is a chance to look and think in an upside down, inside out sort of way," Child tells young creators.

"You could lie on the floor and imagine the ceiling as your floor. Look at the small things in your pockets, bags, or on the shelves; what other things could they be? Let your imagination run riot."

As kids' ideas grow, they will be ready to start building their world out of toast – stale, slightly toasted works best.

To create the toast sculptures, first sketch your ideas and then use about four pieces of toast, cut into a smaller size if you like, to make walls.

Think beyond the average size and shape of a piece of toast, and try bending it to make curves and twists, or cut it into small pieces for bricks or cladding.

Use pastry cutters or bottle tops to cut windows and doors (they don't have to be square, they can be circles or hearts).

Finally, attach the toast together by pushing cocktail sticks through both pieces, and snip off the ends of the sticks if they're poking out.

Flat pieces could even be stuck together carefully with a little golden syrup.

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Spectacular – Cirque du Soleil: OVO arrives in Birmingham in October

Dressed for Cirque-cess

We meet the woman behind the fabulous Cirque du Soleil costumes

There's no such thing as a day in the life of Mar Gonzalez Fernandes, the Spanish costumier who manages the wardrobe for Cirque du Soleil. The reason for that is simple – Mar and her four-strong team have no fixed routine. Every day is different. Each day brings new challenges.

The ladies who are charged with making the world's most exciting and most spectacular stage show look like the best looking gig on the planet have to adapt to the daily pressures of life on the road, whether that takes them to Russia, India, South America or the UK.

Cirque du Soleil: OVO will be at Arena Birmingham from October 3 to 7.

But today Mar's in Russia. Soon she'll be in the UK. After that, she'll be in South America. The food is different, the hotels are different, the venues are different and the local workers who wash and mend clothes are also very different.

"We are in on the last few days before a break," she says, in perfect English. "Everybody is really excited."

Mar is part of a permanent team of four and manages the wardrobe for Cirque du Soleil. Her work is supported by two locals in each town or city that the show visits. "We have more than 1,000 pieces of costume travelling with us. It's me and then we have a person dedicated to shoes, one with costumes, one with hats and two local helpers.

"One of the best things about working with Cirque is that it's so organised. We travel with our own washing machines, dryers, office, painting station for shoes, sewing machines and zone with spares for the hats. We are a little city travelling every week. We have I think three trucks just for the wardrobe.

"It's very hard to have a typical day because we move so much."

But there is some sort of structure. Each Tuesday, the circus rolls into town and Mar has to set up her wardrobe department and dressing rooms. Then she has to wash the

costumes and check the shoes and hats. New shows open on Wednesday and Mar has to make sure costumes are sparkly and clean for the crowds. Then she teaches the local helps how to wash and mend after each performance. "It's never boring," she says.

The costumes are designed separately in Montreal and seamstresses in Cirque's head office do most of the work, leaving just the finishing to Mar and her team. "They develop all the fabrics and patterns and all the costumes. Normally, they send the finished costume and we do the final touches."

Costumes get tremendous wear as acrobats strain and stretch to the max. "We give the artists two costumes to use because they have so many shows. We check the costumes every day and normally need to repair them every day. The acrobats do a lot of work and we need

Northern Spain. "I did my first work with cirque as a local when I was still in college and I really enjoyed it and had an amazing experience. Then I worked with a few shows as a local when they were in Spain. Then I joined. I was in Birmingham in 2009 and it was a great experience. Then I moved to China with another cirque show. Then I worked in a different company. Now I'm back in Cirque."

She's travelled the world but there are still places she'd like to visit, including Japan and Indonesia. "I'd love to go to both. In Indonesia, there are amazing fabrics and costumes. I like to travel to places where I can learn about traditional costumes and theatres.

Traditional

"I think it's very important for me to keep learning and studying. I go to museums when I get a little downtime to see costumes and fabrics and see traditional art and theatre. It's part of the learning experience to help me grow as a professional."

When Cirque is on stage, Mar is busy backstage. A show day usually runs from noon to midnight.

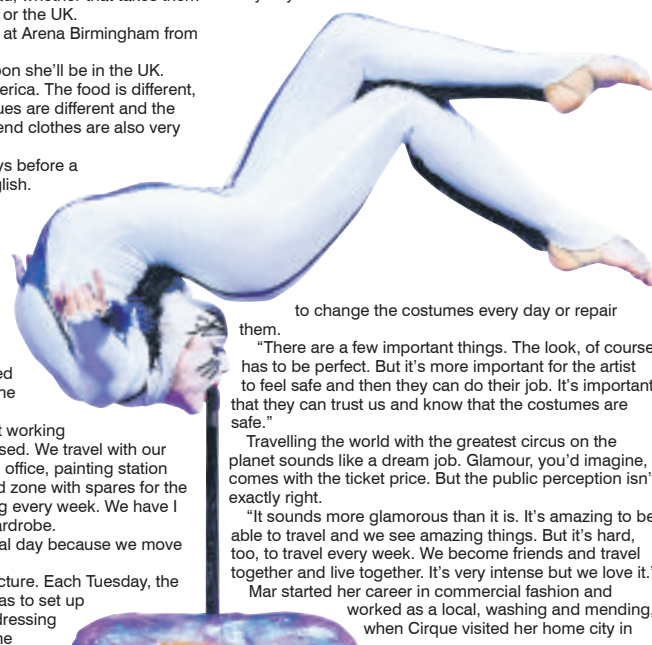
"One of the girls comes in early but the rest of us come in at midday. I oversee the whole operation and make sure everything is ready for the artists. I make all the schedules. We need to make sure all the costumes, hats and shoes are fixed. During the show, we have to be backstage and help the artists get ready and get changed. After the show we have to collect the dirty laundry. We are working midday to midnight."

A typical block of shows includes 13 weeks on the road, followed by two weeks holiday. That gives Mar the chance to return to Spain to see family and friends, or travel elsewhere.

"We're in Russia at the moment and I'm very surprised because I like it a lot. It's beautiful and Moscow was amazing. India is a great country as well and South America in on the list for next year – I was also there a few years ago and I like it a lot. The textiles are great and there's lots of great wildlife.

"Cirque is a remarkable job and I wouldn't change it for a minute."

Andy Richardson



to change the costumes every day or repair them.

"There are a few important things. The look, of course, has to be perfect. But it's more important for the artist to feel safe and then they can do their job. It's important that they can trust us and know that the costumes are safe."

Travelling the world with the greatest circus on the planet sounds like a dream job. Glamour, you'd imagine, comes with the ticket price. But the public perception isn't exactly right.

"It sounds more glamorous than it is. It's amazing to be able to travel and we see amazing things. But it's hard, too, to travel every week. We become friends and travel together and live together. It's very intense but we love it."

Mar started her career in commercial fashion and worked as a local, washing and mending, when Cirque visited her home city in



Costume drama – they are made in Montreal

Roll up, roll up – Cirque du Soleil is a real spectacle

Pub is simply the best for third year running

AN INN has scooped the Express and Star's Most Popular Pub of the Year for the Dudley area for the third year running.

The Old Bull's Head Inn, in Redhall Road, Lower Gornal, was crowned the winner after fending off fierce competition – for the third year in a row.

The competition, now in its third year, saw pubs enter the search to find the most popular pubs in the Black Country and Mid Staffordshire. Customers collected tokens in the Express and Star and placed their vote.

Lyndsey Bullock, landlady of The Old Bull's Head Inn, said: "I was quite overjoyed because it's our third time, so it's a triple whammy for us."

"I did not think I'd win and when we were told it was fabulous news, really amazing. The staff and customers are fantastic so it's good for them because they are as pleased as me."

Heart

Mrs Morris has been at the pub for three and a half years and said she 'loves it from the heart'.

She added: "I think it's the customers. Pub work is not just a job, you have to love it from the heart which I do. People say to me 'how do you do it?', but I don't think I could do anything else."

"We work hard. Not just me, but the staff to keep standards up and everybody loves it. It's clean, they love the beer and the atmosphere so we must be doing something right."

The New Wellington, in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, came in second with The Island Pool, Wolverhampton Road, near Kidderminster, third.

Alex Colbourne, manager at The New Wellington, said: "We're quite



At The Old Bull's Head, from left, landlady Lyndsey Bullock with staff Bernie Jackson, Shona Hawkins and Zara Hughes



At the New Wellington barmaid Sami Wright, left, with chef Kelsey Hutton amazed to see how well the pub has been doing. It just keeps on getting busier and busier. A big thank you for all of our customers.

Mr Colbourne, who has been manager since the pub opened last year, said 'consistency' was the key to success.

He said: "We've got a really good team here. Everybody here knows to

work with everybody else and team works well with each other."

Deputy manager at The Island Pool, Aaron Drew, said: "We could not have done it without our customers. We're pleased to place in the top three but disappointed not to be number one."

"We would like to push on and improve further and get to that spot."

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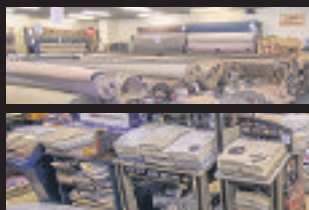
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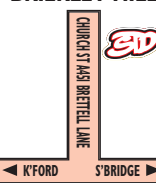
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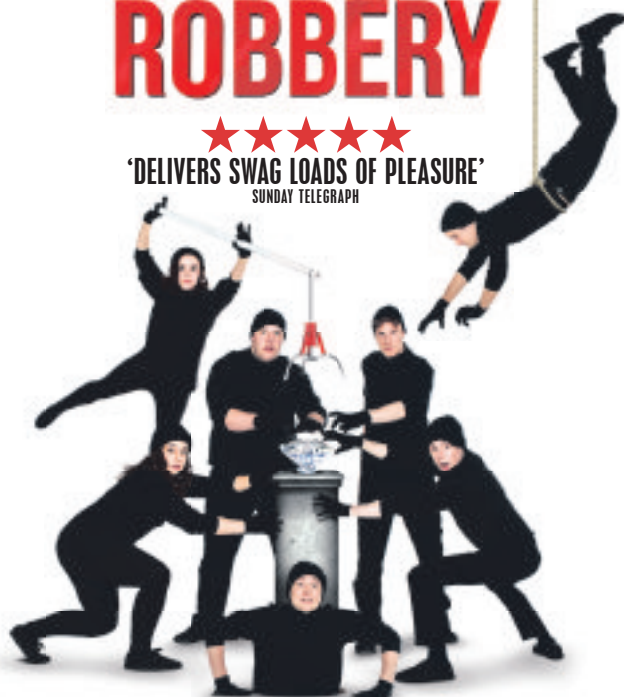
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Boss ban after firm collapses

A CONSTRUCTION boss has been disqualified after his company collapsed owing almost £470,000.

Martin Baker, director of C J M Tiling Limited, Cradley Heath, has been disqualified for seven years after failing to declare all the company's sales income.

The 50-year-old, of Oldbury, cannot now promote, manage, or be a director of a limited company. Jane Knight, deputy head of insolvency investigations for the Insolvency Service, said: "Under-declaration of the VAT deprives the exchequer of the monies needed to provide public services."

"In co-operation with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the Insolvency Service will not hesitate to investigate such misconduct with disqualification as a director the likely outcome."

The ban came after HMRC made unannounced visits to the Halesowen Road construction company in December 2015 and March 2016. Officers found Baker had under-declared the company's VAT liabilities by not revealing all of its sales and used an additional bank account to deposit his sales income.

Fire station fun

A COMMUNITY fun day is being held at Haden Cross Community Fire Station, Cradley Heath. Featuring children's activities and stalls, it will run from 10am to 3pm on September 29.

Model tried to make kidnapper 'fall in love'

A MODEL caught up in a terrifying ordeal has revealed how she tried to make her kidnapper - who had been living in the Black Country - fall in love with her to escape captivity in Italy.

Chloe Ayling, aged 20, was snatched after being lured to a fake modelling shoot in Milan and bundled into the boot of a car.

She was taken to a remote farmhouse where she was held for six days by Lukasz Herba, 30.

The Polish national, who had been living in Tivdale, was jailed for nearly 17 years last month after being convicted by an Italian court of kidnapping the London-based model.

Speaking about her ordeal, she revealed that after two days of being chained to a chest of drawers, she agreed to share a bed with her captor.

Bond

"The more we started talking, the more the bond was kind of forming and once I realised he was starting to like me, I knew I had to use that to my advantage," she said.

Ms Ayling says it was 'horrendous' when she arrived at the house and Herba said she would be sold as a sex slave unless she found 300,000 Euros (£265,000).

"I thought what he was saying was all true and I didn't doubt him for a second because he was so detailed in responses to my questions," she said.

But he also asked her if he could kiss her and if they could have a relationship.

"I thought 'this is my chance to get out'," Ms Ayling said.

"Once I saw his reaction to what I was saying - that things could happen



Lukasz Herba - asked to kiss his captive, says kidnapped model

in the future - he was acting excited and really looking forward to it and always talking about it.

"It was that response that made me realise I needed to keep doing that." Eventually, when he realised the ransom was not going to be paid, he released her and drove her to the British consulate in Milan.

While they were waiting for the consulate to open, witnesses reported seeing them laughing together in a cafe.

But Ms Ayling said: "Why would you be 'offish' with the person who is starting to have feelings for you and is relying on that to release you? I had to



Chloe Ayling hoped that getting her captor to like her might save her

do everything I could to make him fall in love with me."

Herba was jailed in June for 16 years and nine months following a trial at a court in Milan. Ms Ayling said she felt vindicated by the guilty verdict after claims had been made that the kidnapping was a publicity stunt.

Police raided a block of flats in Tivdale after the kidnapping made international headlines last year.

She said: "I still don't fully understand his motivation. It can't just be money. He added me on Facebook two years ago. It's like he's been stalking me, so it must be obsession as well."

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Wed to Sat, July 25 - 28, 9.30am to 4.30pm
and Sun, July 29 from 10.30am to 4.00pm*

MANDER CENTRE, WOLVERHAMPTON
Lower mall (outside former BHS store)
Mon to Sat, July 30 - Aug 4, 9.30am to 4.30pm
* Last photos 4.15pm Monday to Saturday and 3.45pm on Sunday at Intu Merry Hill.



Express & Star

REACH FOR THE STARS AT LUNAR FEST

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

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Jules and Hayden took over The Olde Queens Head 12 months ago and it's been going from strength to strength since.

Offering fantastic meals from pub grub to Carvery's there's something for every pallet which have people coming back week after week clearing their plates each time. As well as the superb food on offer they also have a brilliant entertainment week in week out, from open mic nights, motown nights, DJ's, live bands and their upcoming 80's fancy dress night where prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed. Monday club is a great success with drinks being served at bargain prices from 12-11pm.

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Stars aligning for the Lunar Festival

Goldfrapp, The Stranglers and Basement Jaxx will be among the star attractions when revellers gather at Tanworth In Arden for this weekend's Lunar Festival. The event kicks off today (Thursday) and will continue tomorrow and on Saturday and Sunday.

The headliners will be joined by Amadou and Mariam, Songhoy Blues, The Go! Team, Crazy P, Hookworm, A Guy Called Gerald, Jane Weaver, Boy Azoog, The Unthanks, Blackash, Trojan Sound System, Dam Suzuki, The Pretty Things and Henge.

Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast will also feature as will former World Champion snooker star Steve Davis, who reinvented himself as a DJ.

Davis was the most successful professional snooker player of the 1980s, winning a total of 28 major ranking events including six World Championships. In recent years his involvement in snooker has been limited mainly to TV punditry, which has given him far more time to indulge in his musical hobby, namely collecting left-field music from around the globe and presenting a weekly radio show on PhoenixFM and monthly residency on NTS Radio with Kavus Torabi.

ELECTRONICA

His favourite band is Magma and it was well documented that at the end of the 80s he brought them to London for a series of shows. His musical tastes range from quality 70s prog, Canterbury and Zeuhl through to modern day Rock in Opposition and Avant-Progressive and further into left-field electronica and IDM.

A spokesman for the event says fans are in for an exceptional weekend at Lunar. "Above all else Lunar is a music festival and those that have been before will know our line-up is well crafted and eclectic with absolutely no space fillers; 2018 will be no different, expect to see the best in Psychedelia, Electronica, Americana, World/Roots and all sorts of genre-defying but fundamentally great music.

"After the live music finishes on the Lunar Stage, you have a rich choice of high-calibre DJs and audio-visual treats to keep you entertained into the small hours.

"We will also have a number of talks and debates at the festival, aimed at providing different perspectives on life in modern Britain. Topics will include health, the

environment, literature, UK culture and more."

Goldfrapp will be among the most popular bands at this weekend's event, with Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory playing a greatest hits set. They released their seventh album, Silver Eye, last year, which debuted at number six on the UK chart.

"I think writing an album is like being lost in a wood," says Will Gregory. "You're trying to figure out

Basement Jaxx are one of the headline acts at Lunar Festival. Below, Goldfrapp



an interesting path. You don't know whether it's going to be a dead end or somewhere interesting and you never know when to stop because around the corner some beautiful vista might open up."

Alison and Will have been finding new paths through the forest since their 2000 debut album Felt Mountain, never going the same way twice. "We've never liked repeating ourselves," says Alison. "Often we react to things we've just done. We like the spontaneity of not knowing. It's only through the process that we start to figure out what it is. The fans who have stuck with us are the ones who embrace that idea and are excited by the thought that they don't know quite what to expect next."

If 2013's Tales of Us, a set of noirish folk fables, roamed the same pastoral landscape as Felt Mountain and Seventh Tree, then Silver Eye (a reference to the moon) belonged to the pulsing, electronic lineage of Black Cherry and Supernature only deeper and darker.

The common thread between these two modes, apart from the consistently exquisite arrangements and Alison's extraordinary voice, was a set of enduring preoccupations, which informed both the lyrics and the visual aesthetic.

After the live music finishes, you have a rich choice of high calibre DJs

"Mysticism, ecstasy, ritual, contemplation, metamorphosis, the elemental," says Alison, who took all of the photographs and creatively directed all artwork visuals. I've realised that there are things I feel passionate about on a deep level and they were in the record."

Silver Eye features dance music, which evokes a pagan ritual rather than a club soundtrack. Cold, metallic electronics with a hot current of blood running through them. Cinematic pop music with a twist. A celebration of the thirst for transformation and intense sensation. A 21st century moonance. It weaves together the two strands of Goldfrapp's music like never before.

The Stranglers are perennial favourites and were on the road earlier this year with their Definitive Tour.

Audiences can expect to be swept up high on the wave of The Stranglers' powerful sound during what is always an exhilarating live experience; pounding rhythms, soaring melodies, quirky humour and thrillingly daring musicianship will come together again.



Step On with Happy Mondays



Join the 14 hour party people for Shiiine On

Shiine On, a one-day indie rock and dance festival at Birmingham's Genting Arena next month, will feature more than 30 Britpop, 'Madchester' and post-punk acts.

It will be headlined by dance pioneers Orbital. Renowned for their headline slots at Glastonbury, they will perform their full festival show at the arena.

Indie heroes Shed Seven, who are riding high on the success of their recent top 10 album Instant Pleasures, and Happy Mondays also play the main stage. Shaun Ryder will support himself with a Black Grape set earlier in the day. The main stage will also feature performances by previous headliners of the Shiine On Weekender, Embrace, who are celebrating a top five album with Love Is A Basic Need, and Cast.

Also playing the main stage at the September 8 event is Glasvegas while on the Forum Live stage there will be a rare festival performance from Julian Cope.

The support cast includes The Wedding Present, Gang Of Four, A Certain Ratio, The Stairs, The Membranes, Psyence, Deja Vega, Smoove & Turell, Reverend and The Makers, Dreadzone, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Jim Bob, Clint Boon, and young Birmingham band Ivory Wave.

The bands play on five stages from 1 to 11pm and there is a Hacienda party until 3am with Todd Terry, Marshall Jefferson and Jon Dasilva, plus a Northern Soul DJ set from Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Craddock. There is a food village and craft ales. Tickets cost £59.50, see www.shiineon.com/one-day-festival

Matt is aiming to make you move it!



MATT Terry, winner of 2016's The X Factor is announced to play Alex The Lion in Madagascar – The Musical at selected performances at the New Alexandra Theatre this summer.

The new adaptation of the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture is being staged in Birmingham from Tuesday (July 31) until Saturday (August 4). Matt, pictured, will join the cast for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday performances.

Since winning the The X Factor,

Matt had a top three hit with the Ed Sheeran-penned winner's single When Christmas Comes Around, has released his debut album Trouble with first single from the album, Sucker For You, notching up nearly 60 million streams on Spotify.

Since then Matt featured on Enrique Iglesias's smash single Subeme La Radio alongside Sean Paul.

Matt said: 'I am so excited to be making my acting debut. I can't wait to be playing the lead role of Alex and bringing him to life. Expect incredible costume, set and cast. And the music is immense!'

Alex maybe the king of the urban jungle in New York's Central Park, but he and best friends Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo, face a challenging time when they escape from blissful captivity with the help of some prodigious penguins, and end up in King Julien's Madagascar.

The new musical features an upbeat score that aims to make you 'Move it, move it'. It is directed by award-winning Kirk Jameson with choreography from Fabian Aloise, design by Tom Rogers and puppet direction from Emma Brunton.

Cinema date with king of the waltz

Superstar violinist André Rieu is coming to a cinema near you when his Maastricht concerts are screened via satellite. The king of the waltz's Amore My Tribute to Love concerts are in André's hometown in the Netherlands, where his Johann Strauss Orchestra will perform.

It is screened on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon at the Lighthouse Wolverhampton, plus screenings at Showcase Dudley/W'hampton, Cineworld W'hampton, Light Cinema Walsall and the Odeon Merry Hill.



Wizards go loco for express SVR service

A magical gathering will take place at Severn Valley Railway next month, as it launches its first ever Wizards Express services.

The railway has now added two extra dates to the two already scheduled and has urged those interested to book early to avoid disappointment.

Budding wizards are invited to grab their wands and cloaks to head to the SVR on August 1, 15, 16 and 22 for a magical journey. The services depart from Kidderminster at 11am, 1.40pm and 4.20pm on all four dates. Tickets are £100 for a table of four.

Victoria Carman, marketing and communications manager, said: "This is our first venture into the world of wizardry and we have got a whole cauldron-full of magical fun to be had." To book visit www.svr.co.uk/wizardexpress

High standard of food and ales

The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection.

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

The Annual Trimpey Heavy Horse Festival

The annual Trimpey Heavy Horse Festival takes place on Sunday 29th July 2018 at Holbeache Farm, Trimpey, Nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire. This is the home of the Holbeache Stud where Mike Clarke and his daughter Alison breed the very rare Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse.

Mike and his family organize a whole array of activities from Art Exhibitions to Horse and Cart rides, Tractor & trailer rides, donkey rides, fair, dog show, car boot sale, trade stands selling a variety of merchandise and refreshments.

Many of Mike's Suffolks will be housed in the stables where the public can view them easily and you will usually find Mike talking to anyone



In the working field you will find many of the Horses working, ploughing and muck spreading and there is always a threshing machine working too; it is great to see how these beautiful creatures used to work the land.

All the proceeds from the show are donated to

several local charities but the main donation goes to the Suffolk Horse Society.

The show opens at 10.30 and closes at 4.30. Admission £6.00 adults and £4.00 for children and £5.00 for OAP's. (Children under 5 are free). Car

Boot is £7.00.

This year's show is on Sunday 29th July 2018. For general enquiries please call Mike on 07831 674018 or for trade stand enquiries please contact Mike's daughter, Tracy, on 07531524280.



Trimpey Heavy Horse Festival

Sunday 29th July 2018, 10.30 - 4.30

Holbeache Farm Trimpey, Nr Kidd.
(signposted off Bridgnorth Road)
A Nostalgic Fun Day for the whole family

Come and see how the Heavy Horses used to work the land.

Suffolk Punch Stud Farm, Car Boot, Companion Dog Show, Refreshments, Horse & Cart Rides, Tradestands, Vintage/Classic Vehicles, Tractor Rides, Bouncy Castle, Roundabout... and much more...

Adults: £6.00

OAP's £5.00

Children: £4.00 (OVER 5)

Car Boot £7.00



Spaces still available

www.holbeachesuffolkpunches.com

For tradestand, vintage, classic enquiries Call Tracy on 01905 773673 or 07531524280

CHOICE



Luke Hubbard

Blind Date (Channel 5, 8pm) Paul O'Grady hosts another edition of the dating show. Criminologist Luke chooses between drag queens Trampagne from Portsmouth, Ireland's Shayanne O'Shea and Anna Phylactic from Manchester. Plus, glamorous Glaswegian beautician Lauren makes her decision after speaking to her potential suitors - Doncaster best friends Jamie and Steve, and recruitment consultant Max from London.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Wedding Day Winners. **5.25 Film:** Monsters vs Aliens. (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **6.50** BBC News. **7.00** Regional Programme. **7.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman host the general knowledge quiz, in which celebrity guests are challenged to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. This time, the famous faces featured may not be so recognisable though, as all the stars are better known for their voiceover work. Brenda Longman, the voice of Sooty's panda friend Soo, teams up with Doctor Who's K-9 John Leeson, while veteran game-show announcer Peter Dickinson joins forces with Sir's British male voice Jon Briggs. Hollywood trailer narrator Redd Pepper partners seasoned Big Brother commentator Marcus Bentley, and The Archers' Felicity Finch throws her lot in with co-star Emerald O'Hanrahan. (R) **8.00** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which competing strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series. **8.40** **Casualty.** Alicia decides she wants to put her night with Eddie behind her. Bea offers support, but cannot hide her disappointment when she realises Alicia has not reported it to the police. **9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R) **10.00** BBC News. Weather.; National Lottery Update. **10.20 Film: Avengers: Age of Ultron.** (2015) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Chris Hemsworth. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.05** Officially Amazing: Best of the Bunker. **7.35** The Dengineers. (R) **8.05** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.35** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.05** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.30** Animal Odd Couples. (R) **10.30** Natural World. (R) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Kew on a Plate. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Man Who Never Was. (1956) **3.10** Ben & James Versus the Arabian Desert. (R) **4.10** Flog It! (R) **4.35** Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. (R) **5.25** Dad's Army. (R) **6.00** **RideLondon: Women's Classique.** Jill Douglas introduces coverage of the conclusion to the most lucrative one-day race in women's cycling, with a prize pool of A100,000. **6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham is joined by violinist Tai Murray and Gillian Moore, the Director of Music at the Southbank Centre. Plus, the Chord of the Week focuses on Parry's 5th Symphony. **7.30** **We're Doomed! The Dad's Army Story.** Comedy drama about how Jimmy Perry and David Croft overcame BBC management scepticism and focus groups to get the sitcom Dad's Army on air. Starring Paul Ritter. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R) **9.00** **Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the Border.** Against the backdrop of President Trump's planned construction of a wall between the two countries, the comedian takes a 2,000-mile musical road trip along the US-Mexico border. Postponed from Saturday 14th July. **10.15** **QI.** Part one of two. Some of the best moments from the Q series, in which host Sandi Toksvig posed regular panellist Alan Davies and guest players a range of perplexing questions. **10.45** **Stewart Lee – Content Provider.** A performance of the comedian's stand-up show, recorded at the Palace Theatre, Southend-on-Sea in April 2018. Graphic novelist Alan Moore also features. **12.45** Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) **1.40** Film: Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas. (2013)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) **11.20** James Martin's American Adventure. **11.50** Eat. Shop. Save. (R) **12.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meeting from Ascot. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** WOS Wrestling. **6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** **Japandemonium.** Melvin Odom narrates a review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast. Featuring a prank show and an ancient Japanese sport. **7.00** **Big Star's Little Star.** New series. Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show, as children spill the beans about their famous relatives. **8.00** **Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.** (2012) Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is pulled out of his comfortable life when Gandalf the wizard volunteers him for a dangerous quest. He joins a party of dwarves who are on a mission to reclaim their lost homeland, which has been taken over by a dragon. When the group journeys into the Misty Mountains, Bilbo becomes separated from the dwarves and falls into a cave, where he finds himself confronted by Gollum and forced to play a riddle game. It is set in Middle-earth 60 years before the events of The Lord of the Rings and is the first part of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage, James Nesbitt, Ken Stott, Kate Blanchett, Ian Holm and Christopher Lee. **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** **Play to the Whistle.** Holly Willoughby and captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh are joined by golfer Andrew Johnston, Scarlett Moffatt and comic Rob Beckett. Last in the series. (R) **12.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** Eternal Glory. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.00** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **7.00** **A Year in the New Forest.** New series. Documentary following a year in the life of the animals and people who call the ancient forest their home. Telling the story of each season as it passes in this rich ecosystem, the series explores a remarkable, precious and traditional way of life. In the New Forest, people and nature must face climate change and the new threats of the 21st century together. As the land cools and the days shorten, the leaves turn golden and one of the great spectacles of the forest begins – the red deer rut. **8.00** **My Family and the Galapagos.** New series. Monty Hall's returns to his "favourite place on Earth" to investigate the wonders and challenges that both define and threaten this jewel of nature. **9.00** **Film: Hitman: Agent 47.** (2015) Premiere. The latest in a long line of genetically engineered clones bred to be the perfect assassin takes on a mission that strikes close to home. A corporation intends to use the technology that created him to build an army of superhuman killers. As the assassin fights to bring them down, he uncovers the dark secrets surrounding his origin. Action thriller, starring Rupert Friend, Hannah Ware and Zachary Quinto. **10.50** **Film: Riddick.** (2013) A fugitive left for dead on a dangerous alien world lures bounty hunters to the planet in a plot to escape. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Katee Sackhoff. **12.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.45** The Big Nastie Show. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.05** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords: Disturbing the Peace. (R) **5.05** Rich House, Poor House Changed My Life. (R) **6.05** 5 News Weekend. **6.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** An episode combining new and unforgettable past cases. The High Court Enforcement Agents head to Manchester to track down over £5,000-worth of debt, and seize an expensive car in the process. Later in south London, the agents deal with a violent debtor who threatens them with a concealed weapon, and in Liverpool, they are met with lies and aggression from a mechanic who owes nearly £3,000. (R) **7.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Stewart and Vic become party to a fractured family's school fee woes in Staffordshire and Del and Dael need to reclaim £3,500 after a rental van was returned badly damaged. (R) **8.00** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts another edition of the dating show. Criminologist Luke chooses between drag queens Trampagne from Portsmouth, Ireland's Shayanne O'Shea and Anna Phylactic from Manchester. Plus, glamorous Glaswegian beautician Lauren makes her decision after speaking to her potential suitors – Doncaster best friends Jamie and Steve, and recruitment consultant Max from London. **9.00** **Gino's Win Your Wish List.** New series. Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far – as well as a dream family holiday. **10.00** **When Game Shows Go Horribly Wrong.** Dale Winton narrates a compilation of disastrous game show moments. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Lives. (R) **4.00** Celebrity 5 Go Caravanning. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **8.00** Wonders of the Moonson **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The Summer of Love: How Hippies Changed the World **11.00** Psychedelic Britannia **12.00** Gershwin's Summertime: The Song That Conquered the World **1.00** Mick Jagger – Whistle Test Special: It's Only Rock and Roll **2.00** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **3.00** Wonders of the Moonson **4.00** Close **ITV2** **11.40** Catchphrase **12.25** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **2.15** Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **4.25** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **6.10** Hotel Transylvania: Puppy! **6.20** Film: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** CelebAbility **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** TeleShopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **2.40** A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** TeleShopping **ITV4** **4.50** Goals of the 90s **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Monster Carp **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: Licence to Kill (1989) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Licence to Kill (1989) **10.45** FYI Daily **11.50** Film: Red Heat (1988) **12.55** An Audience with Billy Connolly **2.00** Minder **E4** **11.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** Film: X-Men (2000) **9.00** Film: Warm Bodies (2013) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.15** Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** Rude Tube **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4** **11.00** ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015) **2.45** Ice Age (2002) **4.20** Outthroat Island (1995) **6.40** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Evil Dead (2013) **1.30** Magic Mike (2012) **3.45** Close

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15 Years and Celebrating

Commercial feature

THE Bangla Lounge restaurant is in the heart of Halesowen town centre opposite the church.

The restaurant has been serving quality pan Asian food for the last 15 years.

Originally set up in 2003 by Bari's family the business has gone from strength to strength and this year are celebrating their 15th year anniversary.

As a thank you to all their loyal customers for all their support over the years they are offering 15% discount every Friday & Saturday up to the 11th August and this is both eat in or take away.

Atmosphere and decor

As you enter you are welcomed by magnificent setting and a delightful marriage of classic and luxurious modern – a wonderful comfortable experience.

The menu dishes

The menu offers a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes from red hot Goa to cool Kashmir. On the new 2018 menu, new dishes include South Indian garlic lamb or chicken, Dhabba Murgh, as well as exclusive house specials Tamarind king prawns, chicken makhani and home- made lamb dish. There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and fish lovers including vegetable jhall, Roson Ki salmon, also any main dish from the menu using Quorn pieces.

Owner and manager Bari Azad is ready to welcome you

The ingredients

All food is made freshly cooked on order and the dishes have the warmth of homemade Indian cooking. The chefs take great care in selecting the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.

Healthy eating

At Bangla Lounge, healthy eating is high on the agenda if you prefer to have low calorie version of your favourite dishes prepared, they are able to specially prepare most dishes using less oil, no butter or ghee-less food colouring resulting in lighter meals.

If you are planning a celebration, the restaurant's upstairs function room can cater for up to 40 guests is ideal for work parties birthday celebrations anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service for free within a three-mile radius.

To book a table call 01215857020 or email: info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk

The restaurant can be found at 67-69 High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BQ.

CHOICE



Barbara Windsor & Jack Douglas

Carry On Forever (ITV, 10.20pm)
Martin Clunes narrates the story of the Carry On series of comedy films, featuring interviews with the stars, rare behind-the-scenes footage and on-set publicity photos. The first episode looks at the origins of the franchise at Pinewood Studios and reveals how producer Peter Rogers and director Gerald Thomas accidentally stumbled on a hit formula. With contributions by Shirley Eaton, Liz Fraser, Rosalind Knight, Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Animals Behaving Badly. (R) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Cycling: RideLondon. Live coverage of the RideLondon-Surrey Classic. **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the first of two episodes from the Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast, where items brought in to be valued include diving gear from the Titanic, a first-hand account of Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to the Antarctic, and a walking stick belonging to a far-right propagandist who was executed for treason. **9.00** Poldark. Elizabeth obtains a potion to force an early labour in the hope that George's fears that he is not the father will disappear as soon as the child is born. Ross returns to Cornwall in the aftermath of his duel, hoping to make things right with Demelza, but is forced to consider why he chose to accept Adderley's challenge. George returns home to find Morvenna has come to Trenwith in search of Drake, and banishes her from his estate – prompting Elizabeth to take desperate measures that place the life of her child at risk. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Imagine – Tacita Dean: Looking to See. Profile of the visual artist, visiting her at her studios in Berlin and Los Angeles as she works on a film project inspired by her sister and the Greek myth of Antigone. **11.40** Film: Albert Nobbs. (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Glenn Close and Mia Wasikowska. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Cycling: RideLondon. **12.00** Triathlon World Series: Edmonton. **1.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Natural World. (R) **4.30** Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) **5.30** Secrets of Silicon Valley. (R) **6.30** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. In the final episode, Paul and Bob fish for Pike on the River Test in Hampshire, which may not be the best idea for two men of a certain age with heart problems. In the cottage where the pair are staying, they decide to invite a consultant cardiologist for dinner to talk about their medical past and their future, gaining tips on how to live the most healthy life possible. As the sun sets on the final night of their fishing expedition, Paul and Bob decide to write a eulogy for each on the riverbank. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace explores a Manchester factory that produces 700,000 toilet rolls a day, and Cherry Healey is at Britain's oldest toilet factory, where they turn out 1,000 loos daily. (R) **8.00** Searching for Shergar. The story of one of the world's most valuable racehorses. Shergar, which was famously abducted from its stables in 1983, at the height of the Troubles, and never seen again. Thirty five years on, Alison Millar sets out to see if changed times will help her unearth the mystery once and for all. **9.00** Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls. New series. The former MP explores America's Deep South to meet the people who voted Donald Trump into power and discover their motivations for supporting him. In the first episode, he visits a festival celebrating Southern culture in Texas and travels south to the controversial border with Mexico, where he witnesses an illegal immigrant being arrested. **10.00** Film: Free State of Jones. (2016) Premiere. American Civil War. Fact-based drama, with Matthew McConaughey and Gugu Mbatha-Raw. **12.15** Idris Elba – King of Speed. (R) **1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **10.50** WOS Wrestling. (R) **11.50** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **3.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 21st and final stage of the prestigious race. **6.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul meets an unusual looking Staffie cross that cannot find an owner, an English bulldog needing surgery to help it breathe and a German shepherd struggling to keep its food down. (R) **7.00** ITV News: Weather. **7.10** Regional Programme: Weather. **7.15** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Sarah Willingham, Shaun Ryder, Michelle Dewberry and Eddie Edwards pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R) **9.00** Unforgotten. Pete, Chris, James and Tim are interviewed about the time they spent renting a holiday cottage near where Hayley disappeared, and Jamila needs to know more about Chris's past. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Carry On Forever. Martin Clunes narrates the story of the comedy franchise, beginning with a look at its Pinewood Studios origins. (R) **11.20** Sunday Night at the Palladium. Rob Brydon introduces music by Neil Diamond, Paloma Faith and Texas, and comedy from Milton Jones and Daniel Sloss, plus the cast of Jersey Boys and more. Last in the series. (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.35** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** Bang on Budget. **5.20** Homes by the Med. (R) **6.20** Channel 4 News. **6.45** Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the Hungarian in Budapest, where the 12th round of the season took place. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel took the honours here last season, and will have been looking for another victory to aid him in his closely fought title-race with reigning champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes. **9.00** The Handmaid's Tale. Offred faces a gruelling challenge alone as she recalls her life as a mother, and Serena Joy and the Commander deal with the fallout of their actions. **10.05** The Football Club: Artist in Residence. Portraitist Tai Schierenberg spends a year as West Bromwich Albion FC's artist in residence, but his time with the club coincides with a dramatic turn of fortunes. **11.00** Film: Chef. (2014) A man quits his job at a restaurant and teams up with his ex-wife, his friend and his son to launch a food truck in Miami. Comedy, with Jon Favreau and Robert Downey Jr. **1.10** The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **2.05** Film: Rams. (2015) Two brothers who have not spoken in years put their differences aside to protect their family's sheep herd. Drama, starring Sigurdur Sigurjonsson and Theodor Juliusson. **3.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. Discussing teamwork with the Red Bull Formula One team. (R) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three Derby homeowners, with the aid of £1,000 and the host's help, have one week to make their houses appeal to newly married buyers Lou and Steve. (R) **5.05** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) **3.05** Access. **3.10** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) Concluded. **4.10** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) **5.10** Access. **5.15** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Concluded. **6.15** The Wonderful World of Puppies: Homeward Bound. Rocky the golden retriever moves in with a young family in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, and has to learn to curb his excitement when playing with the children. **7.05** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet. **8.00** Funniest Ever Game Show Moments. Ore Oduba presents a selection of memorable moments featuring celebrities appearing on game shows, including Bradley Walsh's struggles with the strangest questions on The Chase. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Face/Off. (1997) Action thriller, with Nicolas Cage and John Travolta. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: Face/Off. (1997) Concluded. **11.45** Film: Fight Club. (1999) A disillusioned office worker and his mysterious friend start a club where frustrated men vent their anger in bare-knuckle fighting. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. **12.45** Access. **12.50** Film: Fight Club. (1999) Concluded. **2.25** SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2018 **8.45** Nature's Weirdest Events **9.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **10.00** Six Wives with Lucy Worsley **11.00** Royal Welsh Show 2018 Highlights **12.00** The Lost Gold of the Highlands: Storyville **1.15** Daniil Trifonov: Piano Sensation **2.15** Archaeology: A Secret History **3.15** Close
ITV2
12.15 Ninja Warrior UK **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **4.25** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **6.10** Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones (2002) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones (2002) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.55 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Housewife, 49 **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Foyle's War **6.55** Victoria **9.00** The Halcyn **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.15** Road to Avonlea **3.55** George and Mildred **4.50** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
6.30 Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.30** Storage Wars: Texas **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **12.05** Better Late Than Never **12.55** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.00** The Motorbike Show **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.30** Film: Rango (2011) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Bourne Legacy (2012) **11.40** Gogglebox **12.40** The Big Bang Theory **1.35** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.35** Rude Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **1.00** Spirited Away (2001) **3.30** First Daughter (2004) **5.50** Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) **9.00** Spy (2015) **11.20** End of Watch (2012) **1.30** Tabu (2012) **3.55** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Entertainer, BBC2, 12pm

A down-at-heel comedian looks back at his failure both as an entertainer and as a man. John Osborne's drama, with Laurence Olivier. (1960)

TUESDAY

Love Is a Many Splendored Thing, BBC2, 12.05pm

A married American news correspondent reporting on the Korean War from his base in Hong Kong falls in love with a widowed Eurasian doctor - but he is unable to get a divorce and the couple find themselves forced to keep their relationship a secret. Romantic drama based on the memoirs of Han Suyin, with William Holden, Jennifer Jones and Torin Thatcher. (1955)

WEDNESDAY

The Seven Little Foyes, BBC2, 12pm

Biopic of popular vaudeville star Eddie Foy, whose life and career fell apart when his wife died young, leaving him to raise seven children on his own. However, love of the limelight proved irresistible and his manager succeeded in persuading him to work the children into his act - despite the protests of his sister-in-law. With Bob Hope, Milly Vitale, George Tobias and a cameo by James Cagney. (1955)



The Break-Up, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

I Was Monty's Double, BBC2, 12pm

Fact-based drama about actor and army officer ME Clifton-James, whose remarkable resemblance to General Montgomery saw him selected for a special assignment during the Second World War. He was trained to imitate the general perfectly, and sent on a tour of North Africa to keep the real Montgomery's whereabouts unknown to the enemy. Clifton-James stars as both himself and Monty, alongside John Mills and Cecil Parker. (1958)

FRIDAY

The Break-Up, ITV, 10.45pm

A couple's relationship comes to an end, but neither wants to give up their home, forcing them to carry on living together. Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn, Jon Favreau and Joey Lauren Adams. (2006)

Checking in for a new series with more famous faces

Making TV programmes isn't easy. Everyone wants to create a hit, but how do you do that? Some producers decide to copy a previous show's success, making it just different enough to avoid any trouble.

The brains behind The Real Marigold Hotel did something very smart indeed. They took the premise of the film The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel and tried to find out if British pensioners really could make their pensions stretch further by moving to India.

"BBC Two has a strong track record of creating bold new factual formats and Marigold proved to be an instant break through," says the channel's editor, Patrick Holland. "Who would have thought that a show about retirement would become such a hit with audiences young and old?"

Well, perhaps it's down to the fact that we are, according to statistics, an ageing nation, so the subject matter appeals to more of us - we're either around the same age as the participants or, if

we're lucky, we will be one day and want to know what options lay ahead.

The first series saw the celebrities spend three weeks sampling the sights and sounds of Jaipur, capital of the state of Rajasthan in Northern India. They set up home in a haven - a private mansion - where they had to work out whether they could take care of themselves or need staff to lend a hand.

That run proved to be so popular that the second series moved to BBC One, with a new batch of famous faces setting up home in Kochi; two spin-offs saw celebs from both seasons travelling to Florida, Kyoto, China, Cuba, Iceland and Thailand. Now a third series is upon us.

"We've got a brilliant line up of famous faces checking into The Real Marigold Hotel," says David Clews, director of production company TwoFour. "They're a fabulous and funny mix of characters, honest and open about their personal stories, and all of them excited to explore what

retirement has to offer in the vibrant and beautiful city of Udaipur.

"We've got our first married couple too, which adds a brand new dynamic. It's going to be the best series yet."

One of the joys of the programme is seeing new friendships form between the participants - and they're certainly a mixed bag this time around.

It's hard to imagine what former newsreader Selina Scott and actors Stephanie Beacham and Susan George will find to say to Ian and Janette Tough, aka The Krankies; they simply come from very different worlds.

But the Toughs will, you would think, bond with fellow comedian Syd Little. He also moves into their idyllic new home on the shores of Lake Pichola alongside ex-EastEnders Peter Dean, former jockey Bob Champion and author Stanley 'father of Boris' Johnson, who knows how celebrity-driven shows work having spent time in I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!



The Real Marigold Hotel, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Lorry Ladies

BBC1, 7.30pm

Angela Rippon is a trailblazer. Back in the 1970s, she became the first woman to regularly present the news for the BBC. As a result, her fame transcended her day job and she popped up on numerous other programmes, even showing off her previously unknown dance talents to great effect alongside Eric and Ernie on the 1976 Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show. Now she's meeting fellow trailblazers, albeit of a different kind. Female lorry drivers aren't exactly unheard of, but those she interviews during a trip to Northern Ireland have taken the profession to a new level. Here they talk about their passion for the open road and why, after a long week behind the wheel, like nothing better than attending truck festivals across the country.

TUESDAY

Age Before Beauty

BBC1, 9pm

Before she gave us the revamped Poldark, writer Debbie Horsfield scored a hit with the hairdressing drama series Cutting It. Now, she's going back to her roots with the new series Age Before Beauty, which, like its predecessor, is set in a Manchester salon - although it turns out that the beauty

industry has moved on a lot since Cutting It's noughties heyday. Hopefully, Bel Finch (Polly Walker) will be able to catch up on the changing trends though. She's suffering from empty-nest syndrome after dropping her teenage kids off at university, so her brother-in-law Teddy (Robson Green) suggest she comes back to the family salon, which the rest of the clan are currently running into the ground. Meanwhile, Bel's joiner husband Wesley (James Murray) is embarking on a new business deal of his own as he comes to an arrangement with a glamorous personal trainer.

WEDNESDAY

Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience

BBC2, 10pm

The eighth run of the show in which the comedian gets to try a variety of professions for size has already been broadcast in his native Wales, but for the rest of us, it's all new. The four-part series begins as Gilbert is set perhaps his most difficult challenge yet - to become a classical musician. This is not something he's going to be able to achieve overnight; professionals spend years honing their skills before stepping out on stage. As you may have already

guessed, he isn't going to be handed a violin or oboe and told to get on with it. Instead, he learns which instrument (he doesn't play one to any kind of standard) suits him best before receiving lots of help from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. But will he be good enough to join them on stage during the Last Night of the Proms?

THURSDAY

The Prosecutors

BBC2, 9pm

Drugs are big business in prisons. On the inside they can can fetch four times their street value, and serving time can become a business opportunity for kingpin convicts. To prosecute the offenders, police need evidence of who's involved on the inside - and who's flying the packages in. Filmed over a year, with behind-the-scenes access to the CPS and West Mercia police, this two-part film follows Senior Crown Prosecutor Eran



Age Before Beauty, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Cutliffe as she works to build an extraordinarily complex case against a network of people - both inside and outside prisons - who are using drone technology to exploit the captive market. With insights behind the scenes at court, we see how deals are made and the tensions between gang members who are charged together in a conspiracy.

FRIDAY

European Championships 2018

BBC2, 5.15pm

The 11-day celebration of European sport continues with the second day's events Glasgow. The Tollcross International Swimming Centre hosts the semi-finals of the women's 50m freestyle and 100m butterfly, as well as the men's 50m backstroke and 100m breaststroke. The latter should feature Olympic gold-medalist Adam Peaty as he steps up his 'Project 56' bid and aims to become the first swimmer to dip below 57 seconds in the event. Plus, there are finals in the women's 400m IM, featuring Scottish favourite Hannah Miley, and 4x100m freestyle relay, as well as the men's 400m freestyle and 4x100m freestyle relay. Over at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the qualifiers in the men's and women's team sprint and team pursuit take place, before the finals in the team sprints and scratch races.

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No.490

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	25			24		19	6	26	12	8	3	11	20
4	26	8		14			3		26		11		26
	1			19	14	21	22	14	22		22	3	11
7	5	19		22					1		14		20
				26		19	16	18	3	1	1	14	13
19	18	13	13	5			18		21		12		3
7		17				4	14	22			3		14
2		13			24		14		26	7	22	17	1
12	18	13	10	14	1	1	5		26				
26		3			22					11	17	19	5
13	17	8			22	18	19	9	14	15		2	
22		17			13		9			3	15	17	13
23	14	8	8	14	13	3	11		15			22	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	N	O	P	W	U	I	G	D	X	T	S	K
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	Z	E	C	B	Q	M	V	H	B	L	Y	J

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. She introduces wrong male to father (6)
4. Principal paper-faster (6)
9. Assume an inferior position in order to criticise the driver? (4,1,4,4)
10. Musically illiterate? (7)
11. In this book a picture of an animal (5)
12. Drew back; one inside was uncanny (5)
14. Stick on a very loud number (5)
18. Torsio under the ground? (5)
19. Competitor ran into untidy tent (7)
21. Resoluteness in decision making (13)
22. Stolen and taken up (6)
23. Rocks spirit in ship (6)

Down

1. Offended by being expelled (3,3)
2. Fat emmet shook me – exploit it (4,3,4,2)
3. Get to know Labour leader to get a wage (5)
5. Caricature of getting into the air (4-3)
6. Quibbling about charge after private car smash (13)
7. Involve ten in error who are unwell (6)
8. Tough novelist? (5)
13. Start the game again out of shyness? (7)
15. Sounds like headgear to restrain horse for the new wife! (6)
16. Admit 7 upset without article (3,2)
17. Paradoxically spectators may sit here (6)
20. Characteristic skill is up to it (5)

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 O
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 L	26

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
					8						
9											
10								11			
	12			13			14				
15						16					17
18						19		20			
21											
22						23					

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Taper (6)
4. Outcome (6)
9. Tree-planting (13)
10. Procession (7)
11. Subsequently (5)
12. Pirate (5)
14. A gem (5)
18. Discompose (5)
19. Denial (7)
21. Forethought (13)
22. Tried out (6)
23. Association (6)

Down

1. Opportunity (6)
2. Villainy (13)
3. Big (5)
5. Issue (7)
6. Dull (13)
7. Holding (6)
8. Awry (5)
13. Ultimate (7)
15. Production (6)
16. Corn (5)
17. Dive (6)
20. Skeleton (5)

4					9			7
		3		6		5		1
	7		5		1		4	
9		8						
	2			3	4		9	
				7		4		6
	8		1		6		5	
	6	4		5		7		
2			7			6		8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

2	7	3	8	6	9	5	1
6	5	9	3	1	4	8	7
1	8	4	2	5	7	6	3
5	1	7	9	8	3	4	2
9	6	2	5	4	1	7	8
3	4	8	6	7	2	1	9
7	3	5	4	2	8	9	6
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 Across: 1 Disconsolate; 7 Borer; 8 Abuse; 9 Ill; 10 Bishop; 11 Forward; 12 Rising; 15 Easter day; 17 Air; 18 Llama; 19 East; 21 Stone-dresser; Down: 1 Dispiritedly; 2 Oar; 3 Scrobe; 4 Liability; 5 Touch; 6 Refrigerator; 7 Below; 10 Porcelain; 13 Inapt; 14 Added; 16 Smart; 20 Ace. QUICK - Across: 1 Crossed wires; 7 Deter; 8 Put on; 9 One; 10 Constrain; 11 Resume; 12 Mellow; 15 Pertinent; 17 War; 18 Exist; 19 Utter; 21 Interference. Down: 1 Cartographer; 2 Set; 3 Daring; 4 Impatient; 5 Extra; 6 Unanswerable; 7 Dress; 10 Committee; 13 Lower; 14 Rebuff; 16 Rejoice; 20 Tar.

1. To which country did Bosnia belong from 1463 to 1878?
2. Which atomic particle is negatively charged?
3. Of which country was Haile Selassie regent, king and finally emperor?
4. In which US state is Dodge City?
5. Which equestrian event's name is French for 'the training of horses'?

6. Who discovered the respiratory effects of laughing gas?
7. Which organs are affected by nephritis?
8. With which form of entertainment is Hal Prince associated?
9. In which city is Madison Square Garden?
10. Whose half-sister is singer Roslyn Kind?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Helios: 2 Bell: 3 Craps: 4 None:

5 Passover; 6 Komodo Dragon; 7 Japan;

8 Cronus: 9 Have a baby: 10 Libretto.

Niner: FLOWERING

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4732387
9632
6315

gives a foreign ruler,
gives a second foreign ruler,
gives a wise man.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Here playing adult is as easy as ABC

RAA RAA! You are! A noisy little lion! Raa Raa! You are! Louder than, them all! In the cubby-buggy – cubby-buggy hear me call!

This is the song that perpetually goes round and round in my head. It's that or the theme tune to Baby Jake which, if that's the case, means I've been up since before dawn watching the test cards and waiting for CBeebies to start.

Any parent of young kids will understand these are life's truly dark moments. What's worse is that the punishment doesn't end there because for the rest of the day the theme tune to some daft children's programme will do consecutive cartwheels in your head. And while I love having my little girl, sometimes I just want to be an adult again.

LAVISH

If you feel you really can't parent today then ditch the kids (i.e find a responsible adult to look after them for at least a few hours) and take yourself off to Fumo by San Carlo at Selfridges.

Here, with its lavish interior and exclusive Champagne bar, playing adult is as easy as ABC. That's not to say children aren't allowed; it's an Italian restaurant where little ones are welcome with open arms.

Fumo opened in Selfridges last September following a £1 million overhaul. It follows a successful branch of Fumo in Waterloo Street, off St Philips Square, on the other side of the city, while its parent restaurant San Carlo has long been a Brum dining scene stalwart. The space on the top floor of Selfridges used to be The Balcony Bar by Searcys, serving up tasty bites like gourmet burgers and afternoon tea, cocktails and exclusive wines.

However, while The Balcony Bar was very nice, I feel

Creamy burrata with Parma ham and rocket



Fumo is a more suitable use of the space, perfect for this high-end department store.

Step through the entrance and arrive in Milan; everything about Fumo feels Italian from the pin-thin sharply-dressed (predominantly Italian) waiters to the ravishing interior resplendent with marble surfaces, dark wood parquet flooring, soft fawn leather chairs and gold accessories.

The menu is centered around Venetian cicchetti – which are medium size dishes, usually shared between friends. Staff recommended we share five or six dishes

between two, the only problem being which ones to choose from the extensive menu. As with many places serving little dishes, food arrives from the kitchen when it's ready rather than altogether.

Choices range from pasta dishes to salads and smallish pizzas. There's fish dishes and meat, nibbles and breads. All bases of Italian cuisine are covered, street food, soul food, light bites and more.

Dishes are priced reasonably with most between the £5 to £8 mark. Top of my 'to eat list' was the burrata, that type of mozzarella filled with cream, which here came

Classy – the renovations have cost £1million



served with Parma ham and black truffle. Next came the calamari, tender squid pieces in almost-not-there batter. Our table soon filled with exquisite bites. Next a hand-stretched Margherita pizza arrived topped with tomato sauce and mozzarella. It was outstanding.

Due to very full tummies, we did not order dessert. The bill came to £68 including a large bottle of sparkling water and a 10 per cent service charge – a lavish lunch but undoubtedly worth every penny for sublime food and some much-needed adult time.

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Toyota C-HR gets new design grade

By James Parker

Toyota's sharply styled C-HR has blazed a trail through the crossover market since its launch in late 2016, speeding its way into the top three of the company's best-selling models in double-quick time. Now its customer appeal is being increased with the introduction of a richly specified new Design grade, additional equipment features, fresh interior treatments and a bold new colour choice.

Cool looks aside, C-HR continues to win favour thanks to its smooth and highly efficient hybrid electric powertrain option – currently the pick of 77 per cent of customers – and its rewarding driving characteristics, derived directly from its TNGA (Toyota New Global Architecture Platform).

Smart

The new C-HR Design comes with an equipment specification that majors on style and on-board comfort and convenience. On the outside, it sports 18-inch alloy wheels, rear privacy glass and auto-folding heated door mirrors with integrated turn indicators. Welcoming entry illumination and ambient cabin lighting are also part of the package, together with smart entry and push-button start.

The front seats both have integrated heaters and power-adjustable lumbar support. The Toyota Touch 2 with Go multimedia system comes with an intuitive central touchscreen control, navigation functions and access to online services.

Front and rear sensors, plus Intelligent Park



There is now a bold new colour choice

Assist make for hassle-free manoeuvring into and out of parking spaces.

These features are all in addition to the established Icon trim, which includes a reversing camera, dual-zone automatic air conditioning, an electronic parking brake and the Toyota Safety Sense suite of active safety and driver assistance functions.

For 2018, C-HR Excel models gain full black leather upholstery and rear LED lights. For the Dynamic grade there are new matt black 18-inch alloys, black fabric upholstery and a cool silver trim line on the dashboard. For customers who want to make a stand-out statement with their C-HR, the model can now be specified in vibrant Cyan Blue paintwork; a host of customisation options allows for an even more personalised look, including contrast colours for the side sills, front bumper inserts, lower boot trim, fog light surrounds and door mirror covers.

Design and Dynamic models can be specified with optional leather upholstery and a premium JBL sound system – individually or



On the outside, it sports 18-inch alloy wheels, rear privacy glass and auto-folding heated door mirrors with integrated turn indicators

in a combined pack. The more powerful audio system can also be obtained for the C-HR Excel.

The Icon model can be upgraded with a Tech Pack option that includes smart entry, a Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Alert with steering assist and auto-folding mirrors (for the 1.2T Icon the pack

also provides smart entry and push-button start).

The Toyota C-HR is available with a 1.8-litre hybrid electric powertrain, or with a 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine. The 1.2T is offered with six-speed manual transmission and front-wheel drive, or continuously variable auto transmission with all-wheel

drive; the hybrid version is front-wheel drive only. Combined cycle fuel consumption for the hybrid is 74.3mpg with 86g/km CO2 emissions; for the 1.2T the figures from 42.1mpg and 135g/km respectively.

The new 2018 Toyota C-HR is available to order now. On-the-road prices start at £21,880.

One millionth Nissan Juke rolls off the production line



Milestone for compact crossover

The one millionth Nissan Juke has been produced at the company's manufacturing site in Sunderland.

The compact crossover has proved immensely popular, and demand remains strong eight years after the car's launch. On average, a new Juke rolls off the Sunderland production line every 105 seconds.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, senior vice-president of manufacturing, supply chain management and purchasing for Nissan Europe, said: "Reaching the one million milestone is a fantastic

achievement for any model. "Eight years ago, we had never seen anything like the Juke before – it created an entirely new segment and brought a distinctive never-seen-before look to the market. Fast-forward to today and we have one million customers and Juke remains the segment leader.

"It's terrific to see that the 2018 model, with all its improvements and personalisation options, is as popular as the version that rolled off the line for the first time in 2010."

The Nissan Juke was the second crossover to be built at the Sunderland plant following the Qashqai, and statistics show that during its lifetime black has been the most popular exterior colour option.

A multitude of customisation choices means more than 23,000 Juke possibilities are available for European customers.
















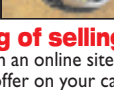
In total, 95,000 Jukes were sold across the continent in 2017, while an update was introduced recently to help keep the crossover current.



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Don't let your dog get hot under the collar

Paws for thought to keep dogs cool

Britain is experiencing a scorcher of a summer with temperatures soaring into the 30s during July. Forecasts are expected to stay sunny and hot, which is good news for sun-seekers but the heat can make family dogs feel very hot under the collar.

The current heatwave has led to a surge in calls to the RSPCA. The animal charity has received 2,835 calls over the past month from concerned members of the public, the majority of which related to dogs left in cars.

Temperatures in cars can rise very quickly. Even at a comfortable 22 degrees Celsius outside, a car can reach an unbearable 47 degrees Celsius in under an hour. A dog can die within minutes in a hot car, warning that owners should never risk leaving their dog in the car, even for short periods.

To help raise awareness, Škoda has created a series of pictures called 'Cool Dogs in Cool Cars' featuring RSPCA rescue dogs, to show pet owners that they should never leave a dog alone in a vehicle. When driving the advice is to always keep windows open or use air conditioning to keep pooches in maximum comfort.

"Our pet dogs are part of the family so it's great that so many families choose to take their canine companion with them on holiday and for days out," RSPCA dog welfare expert Lisa Richards said.

"If you face a long journey with your four-legged friend it's really important to make sure everyone is safe, secure and comfortable for the duration of the drive."

Journey

Škoda is known for its pet practicalities and all cars feature ample boot and cabin space for a comfortable journey. Dog accessories such as the dog seatbelt and hammock are part of the Škoda accessories range and are easily fitted to the seatbelts and head rests so that pets can ride safely.

In 2017, the RSPCA received 7,876 calls about animals left in hot environments.

There are things that drivers can do this summer to ensure their pets are safe while travelling, no matter what the distance:

- Never leave your dog alone in the vehicle so they don't get anxious or overheat
- In hot weather, always leave the window slightly open when driving to provide fresh air for your dog. Summer can be a very dangerous time for dogs on their travels
- Always carry food and water with you to keep your dog hydrated
- Invest in appropriate pet restraints, such as a pet barrier or seat belt, to ensure your dog remains in the back of the car throughout your journey
- On long journeys and hot days, take regular breaks to provide water for your dog
- Where possible exercise your dog with a short walk during your breaks
- When the vehicle is moving, don't let a dog hang its head outside car windows, no matter how much they enjoy it!
- Before embarking on a long journey, take your dog on short journeys to get them used to travelling in the car
- Keep a close eye on your pet when travelling to make sure they are not showing signs of travel-related problems such as barking, whining, jumping, salivating, vomiting, cowering or restlessness
- If your dog is nervous when travelling use reward-based training methods. If you continue to have problems visit your vet or a clinical animal behaviourist
- Make sure there aren't any loose items that could harm your dog in the boot or on the back seat of your car
- Bring their favourite blanket or toy to help relax your dog
- Dogs travel better without a full stomach so it's best to feed them more than two hours before you set off
- Travelling crates, dog guards and car harnesses safely secure your pet when travelling. Ensure that the crate is big enough for your dog and is positioned somewhere with good airflow so they don't get too hot
- If you see a dog in a car on a warm day and are concerned for his/her welfare please alert the police by dialling 999

New Rifter leisure activity vehicle to cost from £19,650

Pricing and specification for the all-new Peugeot Rifter has been announced for the UK, starting from £19,650 on-the-road.

The all-new Rifter which adds a unique, robust design and a premium driving experience to the market is available in Active, Allure and GT Line trim levels as either standard length (with five seats) or long length (with seven seats). The Peugeot i-Cockpit® in the all-new Peugeot Rifter offers a more agile and instinctive driving experience thanks to the compact steering wheel, head-up display and large 8" capacitive colour touchscreen.

Active trim includes as standard Lane Keeping Assist, Speed limit recognition and recommendation and Active Safety Brake, air conditioning, electric and heated door mirrors, Bluetooth®, DAB radio and aluminium roof bars. Prices start from £19,650 on-the-road for the short version and £21,570 on-the-road for the long version.

In Allure, the all-new Rifter adds electric rear windows, rear parking sensors, electric parking brake, tray tables at the back of the front seats, 8" capacitive colour touchscreen with Mirror Screen® (compatible with Apple CarPlay™, Android Auto and MirrorLink®) and voice recognition, LED daytime running lights and 16" 'Taranaki' Alloy Wheels. Prices start from £20,920 on-the-road (short version) and £22,620 on-the-road (long version).

The range-topping GT Line, which starts from £22,570 on-the-road in short version and £24,270 on-the-road for the long version, adds extra connected services and comfort features. Peugeot Connect SOS and Assistance and Connected 3D Navigation is standard along with keyless entry, automatic dual zone climate control, power folding mirrors, Zénith® panoramic glass roof with numerous storage spaces & electric interior blind and 17" 'Aoraki' alloy wheels.

The new Peugeot Rifter is available with the latest range of Peugeot engines, including the award-winning 1.2 PureTech 110 S&S petrol engine with 6-speed manual gearbox, as well as the acclaimed 1.5 BlueHDi 130 S&S, with a 6-speed manual or 8-speed automatic gearbox.

Bianca White is the standard colour for all trims, with Onyx Black and Ardent Red available as options. Metallic paint in five colours (Cumulus Grey, Nimbus Grey, Pearl Sand, Deep Blue and Sunset Copper) can also be specified on Active, Allure and GT Line.

The Rifter additionally offers Advanced Grip Control® with Mud & Snow tyres improving traction control through continuous action on wheel spin. This works in combination with the Hill Assist Descent Control, which automatically maintains optimal speed on steep slopes.

David Peel, managing director of PeugeotT UK, said: "As the spiritual successor to the Peugeot Partner Tepee, the all-new Rifter builds on its most successful elements, while going one step further by mixing SUV characteristics with the traditional practicality and versatility to revolutionise the sector."



SUV characteristics are combined with traditional practicality and versatility to revolutionise the sector



The new Peugeot Rifter is available with the latest range of Peugeot engines

Commercial vehicle range keeping diesel alive

Diesel engines still have a future at Ford, according to the Blue Oval's powertrain chief, but almost entirely because the firm's commercial vehicle customers demand it.

Speaking at the launch of the new Focus – itself benefitting from two new diesel engines from launch – Ford of Europe chief powertrain engineer Simon Palmer hinted that with diesel-powered cars becoming ever more complex and expensive, it's not passenger car sales that are keeping development worthwhile.

"We're seeing a significant reduction in demand for diesel engines on passenger cars – and even more so on small passenger cars," Palmer said.

"I think we can all see that the divide between gasoline and diesel in small and medium passenger cars – in terms of fuel efficiency – is reducing, and so the business case as an individual for buying a diesel is far weaker today than it was five or 10 years ago.

"We have to remember as well, diesel engines require a significant amount of after-treatment and engine technology to meet the latest emission standards.

"So in short they are expensive, and you have to balance that out with the



Ford says there is still a need for diesel engines on commercial vehicles

affordability of small passenger cars," he said.

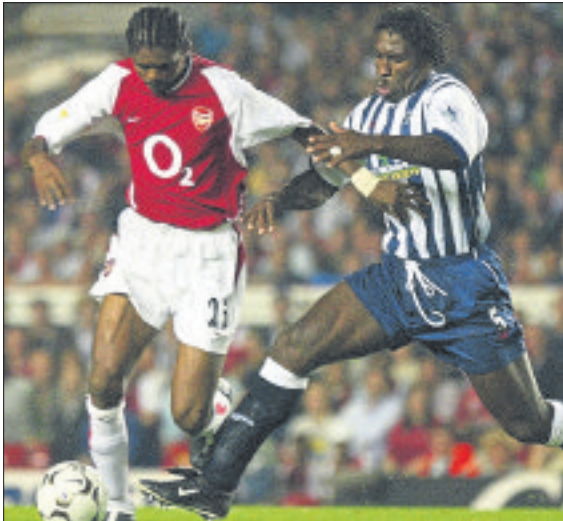
Despite this – and the current 'demonisation' of the fuel across Europe – Ford has invested heavily in the development of two all-new 'EcoBlue'

diesels in the last 18 months: a 1.5 and a 2.0-litre in various states of tune. Why? Customers of its profitable commercial vehicle range still rely on diesel.

"We still see a need for diesel engines on commercial vehicles, and obviously

what we're looking to do is try and protect our diesel engines' longevity," Palmer explained.

"If demand [for diesel in passenger cars] is there, we are positioned in such a way that we can respond to it".



The big Baggies number 5 gets to grips with Arsenal's Kanu in 2002



Darren Moore – taking Albion forward in a new direction



Paul Scholes is challenged during Albion's clash with Man United in 2003



Ex-Portsmouth player Linvoy Primus helped set up a charity with Moore



Cyrille Regis, also a Christian, who would have been part of Darren's team

Darren hopes Albion will have faith in the future

WHEN Darren Moore went back to Fratton Park with Albion as a player, he used to take the unusual measure of meeting up with the opposition players in the kit room before the game.

But this was not a catch-up with former team-mates, it was an opportunity to pray with Portsmouth's flourishing Christian contingent. A huge, hulking centre-back, Moore was a formidable presence on the pitch, as any striker who competed against him would attest to.

Off the pitch there is still the same determination driving the man forward, but there is also a calming warmth and amiable manner. Moore found Christianity during his time at Bradford City and, since then, faith has played a huge role in his life.

Linvoy Primus was one of those members of the Portsmouth prayer group, and remains close to the Baggies boss to this day.

"There were nine players at Portsmouth who were Christians," Primus said. "Whenever Darren came back with West Brom he would come in and pray.

"It was a unique thing that happened but it was a place where you could get some peace."

Bradford

In 2002, Primus and Moore helped set up the Faith and Football charity with former player Micky Mellow and Primus now offers support to Christians in the game through another charity called Christians In Sport.

Moore's faith has already played a role during his time in charge of the Baggies. Wayne Jacobs, who was his team-mate at Bradford, is a Christian too and one of the reasons Moore turned to the religion.

Jacobs was the unseen member of Moore's coaching staff during his spell as caretaker and Moore is planning to use the man he trusts again next season.

Primus believes Moore's faith will play a huge role in his approach to management. "Darren's been in the industry for a very long time," said Primus. "What you see is what you're going to get. His identity isn't going to be defined by the job he's got, his identity is in the person he follows, which is Christ.

"He's a thoughtful guy anyway and his support for people is going to be number one in that.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

"Darren's got some really good tools, he'll be hard-working, honest and transparent with the players..."

"The industry of football has got a very quick turnaround in terms of staff, managers and players and it's very hard to build a legacy, but I think Darren will, through his faith, be able to show the value to every single person involved to make going forward as a club successful."

Lee Bradbury was also playing at Portsmouth near the start of the century, and remains close friends with Moore. He is now manager of Havant & Waterlooville, and has just guided them to back-to-back titles that have taken the Hawks into the National League.

The 42-year-old employs a chaplain at his club and believes Moore's faith will support him in the season ahead. "Darren's got some really good tools, he'll be hardworking, honest and transparent with the players," said Bradbury.

"And they know those qualities that he's got are genuine, rather than for an ulterior motive. He'll stay true to himself and his faith will help him along the way. Jesus has helped him get to where he is, so he's more than happy to put his faith in God."

Bradbury came up and stayed with Moore on the weekend of Albion's stunning victory over Tottenham at The Hawthorns towards the end of last season.

At the time, Jake Livermore's 92nd-minute winner kept alive the club's slim hopes of survival.

"The place was buzzing!" recalled Bradbury. "You could feel that the fans wanted him to get the job because of the connection they have for him. They might not have met him, but he's a family man, and he's trying to instil those qualities at the club."

Bradbury expects Moore to employ a club chaplain

at Albion in the coming months, and it's something he'd recommend. "Some players don't want to talk to managers, so to have someone who people can trust and speak openly to is really important," he said.

"Everyone's got different faiths, if you can help them be comfortable in the workplace, that's half the battle."

It's not just the players that need that support network. The man himself also needs someone to lean on, even if it looks like nothing would ever topple him. Every six months, Moore meets up with a support network for Christians in football ran by Primus through the Christians in Sport charity.

Depending on availability, the group can range from between half a dozen people to upwards of 30. They meet in hotel foyers, restaurants, and even training grounds, whatever is convenient.

"There's a number of Christian footballers and coaches in the Midlands so we try and get the group together," explained Primus.

"Ultimately, we ask how does God say you should deal with these things?"

"Cyrille Regis used to come along as well."

Regis was a Christian too, and used to attend the same large family church as Moore, the Renewal Christian Centre in Solihull.

The legendary Albion striker was Moore's mentor and would have been a part of his team next season had he not passed away so suddenly at the age of 59.

Regis was one of a kind, but Primus hopes that gap on Moore's journey ahead will be filled by others from the church who will offer their support.

"His local church will be part of that support, with that support he will be able to move forward and get through. It's more about the man than the job that he's doing."

Albion's new head coach has a strong affinity to the surrounding community. He grew up playing football in an underpass in Handsworth, and is well aware of the importance of the club to those who follow it.

Sixteen years ago he helped set up Faith and Football with Primus, a community charity aimed at serving local areas in Portsmouth and Handsworth.

"We really wanted to look at the way we serve the community," said Primus. "We knew football would be an easy draw, everyone likes football. I think it's an exciting time for the club. This is what he's wanted to do, he's always wanted to be the manager."

Checktrade Trophy fate now revealed

WOLVES, Albion and Walsall all learned their Checktrade Trophy fate after the draw for the group stage was completed.

All 48 League One and League Two clubs were drawn into 16 groups earlier this month.

But the 16 invited clubs from the Premier League and Championship – who will all field under-21 sides – were later added in.

Wolves have been drawn in Group H and will take on Scunthorpe, last season's winners Lincoln City and Mansfield Town.

Albion, who are in Group C, will face Accrington, Blackpool and Macclesfield.

While Walsall – who reached the final of the competition in 2015 – have been placed in Group E alongside Burton, Port Vale and Middlesbrough.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham and Manchester City are among those to enter teams into the competition this year.

Finch passes Test with flying colours

HIMLEY paceman Adam Finch enhanced his growing reputation by helping to fire England Under-19s to a series victory over South Africa.

The 18-year-old Worcestershire seamer took eight wickets in the second Test as England won by four wickets at the Emirates Riverside to seal a 2-0 triumph.

Wordsley-born Finch, who plays regularly for Himley in the Birmingham League, bagged 4-22 as South Africa, who had a first innings lead of 76, were rolled over for just 90 in their second innings. That impressive burst followed his first innings haul of 4-47.

Finch had also shown his determination with the bat in England's first knock, steadying the innings by digging in to make an unbeaten 16 from 82 balls in 138 minutes.

Finch and his New Road team-mate Jack Haynes, who scored 28 and 27 in the Test, will now join up with England for the one-day series between the two countries.

Malik star turn with impressive batting

MAZEN Malik has started the season in fine style for the Staffordshire Wolves visually impaired cricket team.

Wolves have had a mixed opening with one victory, two draws and a defeat in four clashes. But Malik has been the star turn thanks to some impressive displays with the bat.

Malik and Janaid Mohammed both scored half-centuries while skipper Matt Boulding made 42 as Wolves piled up 199-6 from 26 overs against Herefordshire Bulldogs, who were rolled over in reply for 88.

That was followed by a loss against Lancashire Lions, who made 185-6 before bowling Wolves out for 113. Wolves were forced to hang on for a draw in the return clash with the Bulldogs. Malik top scored with 26 in a total of 79-6 after the Bulldogs had posted 199-3.

Malik then excelled against Wavertree Merseyside at Wolverhampton CC with an unbeaten 89 in Wolves' 180-8. In reply, Wavertree Merseyside ended on 150-4.



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Determined Denny wins pre-title test

TYLER Denny defeated Louis van Poetsch in the headline bout of BCB Promotions' 'England Awaits' event at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday evening.

The Rowley Regis fighter was participating in his English title warm-up bout ahead of his September 29 clash against Reece Cartwright at the same venue.

Denny took part in a six round bout that let him focus on his combinations as he put pressure on Poetsch, placing him against the ropes and also in the corner.

From the first round Denny dominated the fight and mixed up his combinations utilising fast quick jabs and strong body hooks with body crosses.

Poetsch was forced to be defensive and for all six rounds kept his guard and remained upright and on the run from Denny's punches.

But by the second round Denny had begun to break down Poetsch's defence, causing blood to run from the former soldier's nose and by the sixth round the Lydney man was cut above both eyes.

Denny won convincingly 60-53 and now begins his training for his English Middleweight title fight.

James Beech Junior from Bloxwich continued his unbeaten run taking his record to 7-0 with one being by way of knockout. Beech beat Swedish boxer Edward Bjorkland after the six rounds 60-54 in the super bantamweight bout.

The show saw a professional debut as Levi Ferguson took on Paul Cummings in a four round bout. Walsall fighter Ferguson hunted Cummings down and had control of the ring, getting his career off to a winning start via a points victory 40-36. Meanwhile, Ijaz 'Jazzy' Ahmed bounced back from defeat to beat Anwar Alfyadi 60-56 in a six rounder.

Hales third after victory at Oswestry

HALESOWEN'S resounding 174 run win at Oswestry moves them up to third place in the table after they amassed an impressive 352 for five at Morda Road.

Opening batsman Jamie Harris led the way with 132. Skipper Alexei Kervezee (80 from 41 balls) and Charlie Hartley (51 not out from 28 balls) piled on the agony. Oswestry's opening batsman Joe Carrasco impressed with 89 but a superb spell from Harry Kitchen (seven for 51) saw them fall away to 178 all out.

After the game Kervezee said: "We are chugging along nicely and have begun to show our true colours. Jamie's innings was high class and knocked the stuffing out of a confident Oswestry outfit. We need to carry this batting form into the Kidderminster game this weekend and who knows where it will take us."

The second team came up short against Penkridge and drop to third in the league. Only Mohammed Shaub (73) showed any application as a total of 144 was soon eclipsed by the Penkridge bats as they won by six wickets.

Perks and Hampshire ride to the rescue



Ellis Perks with Heathens

BRITISH Under 21 star Ellis Perks makes a return to the Motor Market Heathens after racing for them in 2015 when they spent a full season racing at Perry Barr.

Perks, the nephew of former Heathens rider Dave, steps in for injured skipper Adam Roynon in the winner-takes-all battle on Wednesday, August 1, at Birmingham's Perry Barr track.

And he's joined by former Birmingham rider Taylor Hampshire, who steps

in for Chris Widman. Both Widman and Roynon are on the injured list.

Heathens co-boss Gary Patchett said: "We are keen to beat Birmingham and make it through to the National Trophy final and we felt we had to make these moves. Hopefully they won't be just for one meeting!"

"We feel so sad for Adam and Chris, two terrific lads, but that's the way speedway goes and we wish them well for their recovery."

"Ellis was very keen to join us and, in fact, he's been in touch in the previous two years expressing a desire to come back to Cradley."

"He will also take his place in the Golden Hammer meeting at Monmore on August 13."

Meanwhile, determined Wolverhampton survived a mid-meeting mini scare to see off Belle Vue 49-41 at Monmore Green as they recorded back-to-back home wins.

Stand-in Sam added to TV big fight bill

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington is set to fight in front of a global TV audience after he was added to the undercard for Dillian Whyte's crunch heavyweight clash with Joseph Parker.

The fight, which will take place at The O2 in London on Saturday, is being shown live on Sky Box Office.

Eggington has stepped up at short notice after injury forced Sheffield's Kell Brook to withdraw from his title eliminator with Brandon Cook.

The Black Country fighter, who recently moved up to super-welterweight, admitted he has been presented with an opportunity that is too good to turn down.

"I'm buzzing to get back to the O2 on a massive PPV (pay per view) show," said Eggington. "There was no way I was turning down this fight when they offered it to me."

"Cook likes to come forward and fight so I'm predicting a war, he's going to try and make it a hard night for me."

"He's ranked highly in three governing bodies so getting a win against him would do me wonders."

"Moving up to super-welterweight has given me even more energy to grind down my opponents and do damage late on and I'll be looking to do exactly that next week."

Canadian Cook said: "All of my hard work in the gym isn't going to waste and I'm excited to show the British public what I'm all about. Sam is a tough opponent so I'll need to be at my very best."

NO LIMITS TO PAIR'S SUCCESS

FOUR wins and a second-placed finish out of five rounds – the season could not have started better for the Double Two Racing boys, who stormed to another victory.

Black Country pair Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter have moved up into the Club 600 class in the No Limits endurance series.

The team arrived at Croft full of confidence having won both the Club 600 and National 600 classes during the previous round at Anglesey in Wales. And they showed no signs of any rustiness in Yorkshire as they once again dominated their class to take another comfortable victory.

Wright, from Tividale, said: "Confidence was high as and we always enjoy the quirky, toughness of the fast and flowing Croft circuit."

Temperatures

Friday's test day started with fairly heavy skies and cooler temperatures, and the Track Prep team – which has been doing vital work for Double Two Racing behind the scenes all season – were on hand to set the bike up suitably for the unique surface.

The set up seemed to work as during qualifying, which lasted 45 minutes, both riders went out for a quick lap after two warm-ups, placing the bike first on the grid in class and 13th overall. Siviter, from Blackheath, started the race and got off to a flyer, entering the first corner in sixth place overall and first in class.

Wright kept the pace going and soon the team was two laps ahead, while Track Prep was busy refuelling Siviter's bike, checking tyre pressure and flipping the rear tyre.

With Siviter sent on his way, he increased the lead to three laps, ensuring could Wright could bring the bike home for a fourth win in five rounds.

Double Two Racing joined sponsors Ange and



Wright, left, and Siviter congratulate each other after making it four wins out of five

John Gaskell, of Revs Suspension Services, in Halesowen, earlier this month for a charity golf day at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club, in south Shropshire.

The day saw individuals and teams compete over 18 holes in aid of the Rainbow Cancer Care Foundation, which supports UK charities such as Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Wright said: "Double Two Racing has supported it for the last two years and this year the charity was celebrating its 10th anniversary. John sponsors our team and I've known him since I was 15 years old. We are always delighted to help out such a worthy cause."

"The team bought along both race bikes, sponsored two holes and auctioned off prizes such as a hospitality day out at one of our races and an amazing chance to see the British Superbike premier finale showdown event at Brands Hatch, donated by our race organisers, No Limits Racing."

"They also donated the use of their private suite with full hospitality on race day."

"We were overwhelmed to make £500 on the day for the foundation and we were also joined on the day by our sponsors, Central Accident and Central Classic Restoration, which supported the team and the charity very generously last year."

"All in all it was a great day and thanks go to everyone who was involved,"

Yeltz draw up plans for the new season

HALESOWEN Town's pre-season preparations are well under way with the new league season less than two weeks away.

The Yeltz drew 1-1 at Aberystwyth on Saturday with a goal from Jordan Goddard and followed up with a goalless draw at Sporting Khalsa's Aspray Arena on Tuesday night. It was the third pre-season draw on the trot for Yeltz following a 2-2 at Romulus.

Two home games follow for John Hill's side, Newtown on Saturday (3pm) and Bromsgrove Sporting on Tuesday. The first league game of the season is at home to Lowestoft Town on August 11.

★★★

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